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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2011

Dow Corning are in talks about waste incinerator

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A waste management company is in talks with Dow Corning, with the aim of building an 'energy from waste' plant at its Cardiff Road site.

Waste Recycling Group (WRG), which hopes to strike a partnership with Dow Corning, says the facility will create local employment and "a significant number of jobs during the construction period".

Dave Ott, Dow Corning site manager said: "Ensuring that we have a secure, predictable and cost effective supply of energy is critical to the long-term success of the Dow Corning Barry site. The proposed plant at the Barry site would help us to contribute to the company's sustainability by generating steam and electricity – which we can use on site.

"The combined 'heat and power approach' would provide us with an efficient and sustainable source of energy, which would bring long-term benefits to Dow Corning and the local economy."

The proposed facility would treat residual household and non-hazardous commercial wastes, and would generate steam and electricity that can be used entirely by Dow Corning.

WRG is one of four companies short-listed by Prosiect Gwyrdd (Project Green) to provide five local authorities, including the Vale Council, with a solution to the long-term management of municipal waste and reliance on landfill.

WRG says it is committed to ensuring that there would be full public consultation with local residents, statutory bodies and other interested groups concerning the proposed plant.

Consultation would be held both prior to, and following, the submission of a full planning application.

John Plant, director of FCC Projects group, of which WRG is a part, said: "With new legislation forcing local authorities to reduce waste sent to landfill, it is vital that we find viable alternatives.

"This combined heat and power plant would bring significant benefits for sustainability by producing renewable energy from waste left over after recycling, reducing dependence on climate-impacting fossil fuels and helping to secure UK energy supply.

"We are pleased to be working with Dow Corning – a company that has long put the well-being of the local community at the heart of its successful and sustainable business."

But Dr Ian Johnson, the Plaid Assembly candidate in the Vale, was more cautious: "Despite a tenacious fight from local residents and some of our local councillors, two waste disposal plants have already been given permission.

"No doubt this has given other companies the idea that the Vale is a soft touch on this issue, with the company having moved its proposed site from Newport to the east end of Barry.

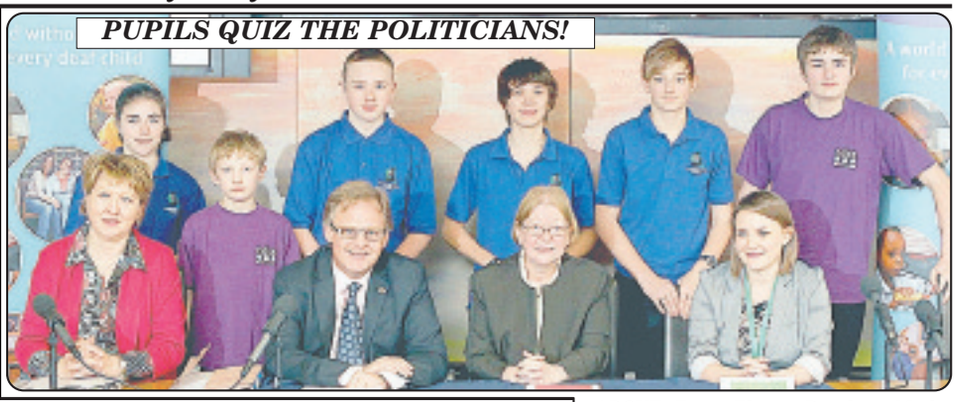
"Prosiect Gwyrdd is a 25-year long project, so it is important that whatever method of waste disposal and energy recycling is chosen, it is the most up-to-date and effective possible.

"We are going to be locked in to this scheme for 25 years so we must-n't find ourselves in a position where we have to 'feed the monster' because of the contract – especially if it isn't the most efficient and green way of recycling our waste products."

Max Wallis of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth said the group would "fight the application all the way".

"Incineration of waste is still more costly and more environmentally damaging than alternatives."

PUPILS QUIZ THE POLITICIANS!



ABOVE: Front: Eleanor Burnham, Mark Isherwood, Ann Jones, Bethan Jenkins. Back: Paige Williamson (Llanishen), Leam Tucker (St Cyres), Lewis Jones (Llanishen), Mitchell Price (Llanishen), Kurtis Olding (Llanishen), Jamie Miller (St Cyres).

(SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 5)

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Refuse: 'public must be more responsible'

I FEEL I must respond to Jeffrey Heathfield's letter last week regarding refuse collection.

Admittedly, there have been a few teething problems, which were as a result of the severe weather conditions.

However, the council did provide more than enough information regarding the weekly to fortnightly switchover through local newspapers, letters sent to every householder, the information bus that went around the town, via the phone, and through their website.

If residents were more responsible and made full use of all the weekly recycling facilities, including the brilliant kitchen waste system, they would find their use of black bags would reduce dramatically.

We are a family of five and we use only one black bag a fortnight.

Would Mr Heathfield like a demonstration of how this can easily be achieved? I'm more than happy to do that.

I think his proposal to return to the previous system is premature.

The council are attempting to give Barry residents what they deserve by reducing our landfill.

Perhaps Mr Heathfield's thinking is a little too short term. I hope the council persevere with the current system.

Rachel Long,
Barry

'Adequate collection'

I FIND Jeffrey Heathfield's recent letter more of a political rant than an observation; since the Vale Council introduced the new collection services they were hit with some of the worst weather this country has had in years.

I for one thought the council coped very well with the bin collections. Also they introduced the kitchen waste collected weekly before Christmas – again, I think with great success.

The recycling collections are excellent, and if everyone followed the council guidlines for recycling and kitchen waste, they would find that the black bag collection is more than adequate once a fortnight.

I think Mr Heathfield will find that Cardiff City Council have changed their black bag collections to once a fortnight – and their recycling collection to the alternate week. I would add that I am nonpolitical and would like to see a good debate about issues and not point-scoring.

Tom Wilson,
Barry

An obsession with 'tidiness'

RECENT letters regarding the proposal in Cowbridge by Waitrose to build a car park over the footpath that runs between the former Hurran's site and the churchyard set me thinking.

Science has so far identified around 2 million species on earth – this is thought to be 10 per cent of the total.

There is only one species that worries about 'tidiness' – the human race.

Almost all of the untidiness that humans complain about is created by other humans.

The remaining millions of species have to live in the areas of the planet that the human race hasn't got round to 'tidying up' yet.

There are a few small pockets of wildlife habitat around the centre of Cowbridge.

They might look untidy, but they are vital to the creatures living there.

Wouldn't it be nice to leave them alone, rather than adding to the acres of nice, tidy tarmac that is useful only to humans who like to drive everywhere?

Colin Hopwood,
Cowbridge

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Readers' Letters

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'New Sainsbury's store is a real threat to jobs'

IN The GEM on January 29, there were two significant contributions: one was from a Barry resident in the letters page, which accurately summarised traffic problems that the opening of a Sainsbury store on the Torque Tools site would create.

If anyone wishes to dispute what the writer says, I would be very interested to hear from them, particularly any representative of Sainsburys (but, I forgot, no representative of Sainsbury would have practical experience of the severe traffic congestion that already exists in this area). The other item was a report of a meeting between representatives of concerned shopkeepers and our AM with representatives of Sainsburys.

I was not at the meeting, but let us dissect the comments of the Sainsbury PR spokesperson:

1. *We met with Jane Hutt AM and some of her constituents …….to ensure our store meets the needs of the local community*."

As far as I can read, no member of the local community was present, just the AM, Mr Patel and his daughter who were concerned about the impact of the proposal on their livelihood, but why let the facts get in the way of a good sound bite?

The truth is that Sainsburys have not met any members of the local community and with the imminence of the planning application, I don't believe they have any intention of doing so.

2. "*We believe that this part of the town will benefit from a new convenience store…..as people without a car currently have a limited choice of where they can shop*."

So Sainsburys are going to make a significant financial investment in the belief that doing so will improve choice for a limited number of people ie those that don't own cars.

The truth is that the store will only become economical and profitable if it sucks business away from existing businesses in the area.

While the Co-op convenience stores at Weycock Cross and Claude Road can look after themselves, the impact on other shops in the immediate vicinity will be devastating.

History, both within the town, as instanced by the devastation of Holton Road following the arrival of Tescos and Morrisons – and more widely, by the devastation of high streets throughout the country, very clearly gives a factual example of what the arrival of Sainsburys would do to Park Crescent.

In any case, both Tescos and Morrisons are well served by dial-up free bus services, public transport, and in this internet age by on-line shopping

3."*The new store will ...and bring jobs and investment to the town*."

If the jobs that will be lost from the closure of family-run convenience stores on Park Crescent are set against any new jobs that will be created at the new store, there will probably be a net loss of people earning income from trading on Park Crescent.

At best, the new store will be job-neutral, but the loss of personal service from the family-run businesses will be considerable.

As far as investment is concerned we all believe, don't we, that the investment is being made for purely altruistic reasons and not because Sainsbury see a profit opportunity?

This store will be a job and community killer for everyone on Park Crescent and we mustn't allow this thriving community to be devastated.

David Kennett, Barry

'Elitism is not the answer'

IN answer to a GEM letter from Judith Morgan, Bridgend headed '*Why history proves that we must say Yes'*, **I am very concerned at the way the UK is fragmenting, and the break-up of Great Britain.**

I consider one of the great sins of the last century was nationalism. After retiring and with time on my hands, I have been studying my ancestry around Cardiff over the last 150 years.

It shows that people came here from all over the world and contributed by creating wealth and enhanced the culture, benefiting us to the present day.

I am for Welsh culture, the language and identity, but this is not the way – by creating further a Welsh elite (I think there is a word for it in Welsh, *Crachiau*).

What I want to know is, given the very low vote that enabled the Welsh Assembly to come into being, how is this now financed?

We now have politicians in Cardiff, Westminster, and Brussels. How many more politicians does this state of affairs take to operate the system at present?

Will we need more if there is a Yes vote? And, of course, how does this all stack up against the Welsh Assembly?

I believe most of this energy should be devoted to education, apprentices, real training, wealth creation, entrepreneurship.

Did anyone see the life of Laura Ashley the other night on the programme entitled, Welsh Greats? This is the type of thing that we need more of here in Wales instead of quasi-Welsh nationalism.

The gravy train of the Welsh Assembly needs to be curtailed a bit – and the better off Wales would be.

We now see different education systems evolving in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Island.

Incidentally, from all the polls taken on Welsh children's education, their achievements are the lowest in the UK and funded with less per child than in England.

We will now have three different university systems. Then there is the NHS, which is now different here to other areas in the UK.

Can we honestly go on like this? I believe it is time to stop the rot. Enough is enough. We must vote No.

Eddie Fitzpatrick,
Barry
(True Wales)

'Give credit to the council for change'

I WRITE with reference to the letter by Jeffrey Heathfield, the FocusBARRY independent candidate for Dyfan ward, Barry Town Council concerning confusion over refuse collection (The GEM, January 27).

I will give Mr Heathfield the benefit of the doubt that he was not aware that Cardiff Council's executive have recently considered changing 'black bag' collections from weekly to fortnightly as reported in the press nearly three weeks ago.

Perhaps credit should be given to the Vale Council for introducing a necessary change before Cardiff Council had even considered it!

Richard Taylor,
Barry

Referendum is not for tax-raising powers...

I WOULD like through your newspaper, to correct various letters recently stating that the referendum on March 3 for full law-making powers for the National Assembly will also give the Assembly powers to raise tax.

This is totally incorrect, the referendum (if there is a Yes vote, which I hope there is) will only allow the Assembly Government to make laws in Wales that are currently devolved like education, health and local government, not taxation.

A Yes vote will allow Welsh laws to be made and scrutinised in Wales, but will not allow AMs to raise tax.

Chris Elmore
(Labour Councillor for Castleland, and campaigner for a Yes vote on March 3)

'Future bleak for privatised NHS'

SURELY we must now all agree that the present Government has a clear intention to dismantle the NHS – by creating consortia set up by overworked GPs?

Private companies will make all the management decisions about finance and appropriate treatment, for hospital care and policies, in that particular area.

Such a consortium will have shareholders, direct employees and directors, like any other company, such as a casino, existing to make a profit for the shareholders.

The power to decide, without appeal, will be held in the privacy of the different boardrooms in different post codes, in exactly the same manner as decisions have recently been made in the banking industry.

Having seen how boardrooms have already destroyed a global banking industry, the NHS could be put into the hands of similar unaccountable entrepreneurs, for them to get their cut while an apathetic nation looks on.

The intention seems clear, that businessmen will make a profit from our NHS.

I do not think that all these directors will abuse their power, as I did not think that all bankers were obsessed by their self-interest in huge bonuses, but, as with banking, that type of management will come to rule the NHS, dishing out bonuses in the secrecy of the boardroom.

In all bonus cultures, those who have the power to make these decisions, never fail to include themselves in such schemes, in generous proportions.

The Government has already been quite clear that, if the consortium in your area, makes your hospital hopelessly inefficient, there will be no plans to restore previous standards.

Any hospital that fails, under these plans, stays failed.

In time, I assume that the Government intends to sell off the assets of the hospitals to these consortia, as Mrs Thatcher did with other public resources, at favourable prices – on the pretext that the directors will manage hospitals better.

The nation will never be able to afford to buy back these assets from the consortia, and the NHS, as a moral concept, will cease to exist in England, and perhaps later, in the rest of Britain.

C N Westerman,
Brynna

Search for family

I HAVE been researching my Harry family, who were from Aberkenfig, for eight years and am stuck for information.

My great grandfather, David Harry, was born in 1862 in Aberkenfig; he married Catherine Maria Davies/Davis and they had several children – Catherine Grace Harry, David Harry, Elizabeth Harry, Gwendoline Harry and Blodwen Harry.

David was killed in the Park Slip mining explosion in 1892 aged just 30.

My father, Bob Giles from Barry, used to go to Maesteg to visit relatives.

If anyone reading this is related to any of the above would you please get in touch.

I'm sure David, Catherine, Gwendoline and Blodwen must have some descendants.

I only need a small amount of missing information to get my research on the road again.

Email *jennywrenofbarry@yahoo.co.uk.*

J Giles (Maiden name),
6 Woodlands Court,
Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	06.37	9.5	18.56	9.4
04 Fri	07.14	9.6	19.31	9.4
05 Sat	07.47	9.8	20.02	9.5
06 Sun	08.17	9.5	20.32	9.2
07 Mon	08.47	9.4	21.01	9.2
08 Tues	09.15	9.1	21.27	8.9
09 Wed	09.45	8.9	21.59	8.6
10 Thur	10.18	8.3	22.34	8.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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YOUNG MUM IN A BATTLE TO SAVE LOCAL BABY UNIT

A young mum from Barry who is leading the opposition to the closure of Llandough maternity unit believes the legal challenge stands a good chance of success.

by TIM CHAPMAN

On January 18, the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board gave a green light for a huge shake-up in hospital services ,with one of the consequences being that the midwife-led service in Llandough will be closed.

Lynette Spragg (25) the mother of Laura, aged one, told The GEM: "A draft brief has been presented to a Barry solicitor to engage barristers to get a judicial review.

"We are very optimistic about the challenge, because we have provided everything that is needed."

The health board argues that although the Llandough unit will close, women will have a choice of a midwife-led birth or a consultant-led birth at the University Hospital of Wales; or, if they wish, a home birth.

Opponents of the closure claim that the consultations which were carried out did not comply with health Minister's guidelines that would make changes illegal.

Lynette, who gave birth to Laura at Llandough in 2009, said the Vale was losing something of real value.

"It will mean mums-to-be from the Vale having to travel all the way into Cardiff. To get to Llandough from Barry takes between 15 and 20 minutes, to get to the University Hospital takes another half hour, and then the problem of finding a parking spot.

"Why go to an acute hospital site for something that is natural? Midwives are so well trained now that an emergency at the end of labour is unlikely."

Lynette added that on the rare occasion there was a complication, a mum could be transferred to Cardiff which is what has happened in the past.

Lynette added: "We have not given up the fight – more than 1,000 people opposed to the closure have joined two groups on Facebook which they can still visit."

A spokesman for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board stressed the board believed changes were in the overall interests of patients.

He explained: "In terms of maternity services, women will still be able to choose where to give birth – whether that is at home, in a midwife-led unit or receiving consultant-led care at UHW.

ABOVE: Lynette, whose daughter Laura was born at Llandough maternity unit, believes the Vale may be about to lose a valuable resource, unless a legal challenge succeeds.

"Considerable investment in terms of increased staffing, additional bed capacity and major capital work has been made to ensure the best possible care is provided to mothers within the Vale and Cardiff."

10 years jail for Barry man with 'dreadful record'

Report by AJ SICLUNA

A GANG invaded a flat in Barry where one of them carried out a robbery, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

When the man responsible, 26-year-old Daniel Richards, was released on bail, within hours he drove a car and crashed after damaging the walls of three houses, and narrowly missed a police car and a bus.

Richards, of Barry, was sentenced to a total of 10 years imprisonment and disqualified from driving for three years, and ordered to take the extended driving test.

Richards admitted charges of robbery, aggravated vehicle taking, driving with excess alcohol and without insurance.

Judge Neil Bidder said: "Your record is dreadful. You led a group into a flat, and you were responsible for much of the violence."

Referring to his driving, he said: "It was a miracle no-one was killed or injured. You present a serious risk of harm to the public."

Prosecutor Meirion Davies said that on March 4, Stephen Pocock was in a flat in Treharne Road, Barry, with friends.

At about 8.30pm, the defendant and some others forced their way in. Richards said: "Give me your money, give me everything you have got."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

RHOOSE SURGERY

RHOOSE councillors Jeff James and Gordon Kemp will be holding one of their regular advice surgeries on Saturday, February 5, at Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose, between 10am and 12 noon. No appointment necessary. Telephone 01446 710690 for further information.

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Sabzi Biryani (V) £4.95

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Subzi Masala (N) (V) £4.50
Paneer Pasanda (N) (V) £4.50
Subzi Paneer Jalfrezi (V) £4.50
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(N) Contains Nuts
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Men had machete and meat cleaver in a Barry street

A POLICE armed response group was deployed when a member of the public in Barry saw a man in the street armed with a machete.

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

Shortly after, he went into a nearby shop with the weapon, and with a companion who was holding a meat cleaver.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Mohammed Hafiz (23) of Barry was jailed for 18 months and Carl Tamlin (28) of Barry was jailed for 12 months. Both admitted affray and possessing an offensive weapon.

Hafiz also admitted a further charge of affray, battery, and possessing drugs. Tamlin admitted a public order offence.

Prosecutor David Thomas said that on September 26, Miss Leanne Moore was in Dyfan Road, Barry, and saw Tamlin brandishing a machete.

She was "completely shocked," called the police, and an armed response group was deployed.

Later, the two defendants went to nearby Dyfan Stores holding weapons and were seen "messing about".

The two were later arrested and Tamlin said he was completely intoxicated after drinking cider and taking drugs. Hafiz said he was "off his head" on alcohol and cocaine.

The court was told that Tamlin was asked how drunk he was on a scale of one to ten, and he said "101".

The pair were bailed, but on October 6, they went to a house in Llewellyn Street, Barry. One of them had a hammer. The people inside became shocked.

Natalie Gillman tried to stop them going in, but Hafiz struck her and she suffered facial swellings.

Kevin Seal for Tamlin, said: "He has had a long, entrenched alcohol problem which he has struggled with for years. He has also suffered depression."

In the second incident, Tamlin himself received an injury.

David Purnell for Hafiz said: "These were frightening, regrettable incidents. He has a supportive family to fall back on."

Judge Phillip Richards told them: "A message has to be passed that if people take such weapons into a public area, the court's response will be immediate imprisonment."

Man sentenced to 10 years jail

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Richards grabbed Mr Pocock by the neck, and struck him to the face.

One of the others had a knife and another a piece of wood. Mr Pocock was struck with the piece of wood and the knife was put to his neck.

Fortunately, said Mr Davies, Mr Pocock succeeded in escaping into the road and getting a neighbour to call the police. He suffered two black eyes, bruising, swelling to the top of his head, and a cut over his right eye, which needed stitches.

"In that flat, confusion, chaos and fear reigned," said Mr Davies, who added that a young woman there had also been struck with a piece of wood.

Richards was arrested on March 9 and claimed to be elsewhere. On October 11, he was granted bail, but within hours, he was intoxicated, and in Ivor Street, Barry, took a set of car keys from a companion, threatened him, and demanded to drive.

"He mounted kerbs, went on the wrong side of the road, and went fast over speed bumps. Passengers feared for their safety, and he also began to do handbrake turns," said Mr Davies.

He was spotted by the police going the wrong way around a roundabout, narrowly missed a police car and a bus and after smashing into three walls, crashed into a tree.

He was found to be twice over the drink-drive limit. He was said to have convictions for 40 offences, including robbery, driving with excess alcohol, wounding and possessing drugs.

His barrister Carl Williams said: "He began offending at the age of 14, following the death of his father, and he also abused alcohol and drugs.

"Sadly, his problems have never been taken in hand. The driving took place after he consumed three bottles of vodka.

"While in custody, he has addressed his addictions, and is now drink and drug-free. He accepts he is at a turning point in his life."

Read your GEM online: ***www.barry-today.co.uk***

CHEFS AND SPEAKERS IN THE ROTARY SPOTLIGHT!

AS part of the programme which Rotary organises to help develop students' skills, the Rotary Club of Barry held its Young Chef competition on January 18, and its Youth Speaks competition on January 26.

Young chef participants.

The Young Chef competition was hosted by Sue Hooper, the head of home economics at Bryn Hafren. Six students competed, and judges Sally Thorpe and Chris Minty of the Vale catering services department decided that the winner was Aimee Delaney of Bryn Hafren, with Steffan Long of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg the runner-up.

Other contestants were Sophie Burgess, Rebecca Morgan, and Ellie Gronow of Bryn Hafren, and Jack Berry of Barry Comprehensive.

Three-course meals were cooked and Aimee prepared roasted red pepper and tomato soup, followed by chicken breast wrapped in Parma ham and stuffed with Mozarella cheese, with chocolate fondant for dessert.

Speaking for the judges, Sally Thorpe commented on the high quality of many dishes and gave helpful advice.

Aimee now goes on to the next round representing Barry in the Vale area in a contest at Barry College on February 8, and if successful there, would proceed to the south Wales competition.

Aimee Delaney wins the Young Chef trophy.

The Youth Speaks competition was hosted by Jenny Ford, head of English, at Barry Comprehensive.

Three junior teams and four senior teams competed.

The junior competition was won by Leah Robinson, Robin Tait, and Owen Young of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg debating 'This house Believes that Teenagers are Mad, Bad, and a Waste of Space'; Owen Young was also named best opposer.

The runners-up were Jared Hall, John McAllister, and Jack Jones of Barry Comprehensive, debating 'This house believes that reality TV is not good for Real Reality', with John McAllister named best proposer.

Hannah Parker, Lili-Beth James, and Rosie-Loup James , who won the Senior Youth Speaks competition.

Other competitors were Michael Bonney, Anthony Barker, and George Slade of Barry Comprehensive, with Michael Bonney winning best chair.

Four teams competed for the senior award in a contest which was won by Rosie-Loup James, Lili-Beth James, and Hannah Parker of Bryn Hafren, debating 'This house believes that there is nowt wrong with slang, innit!'

Hannah won best proposer and Lili Beth best opposer.

Runners-up were Jacob Ellis, Catrin Williams, and Nia Russell of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, debating 'This house believes that the Commonwealth Games are a worthy institution that should be preserved' with Jacob named best chair.

Other competitors were Caelum Davies, Charlotte Harris, Pria Is-Male, Ian Crapnell, Shae Farmer, and Liam Hodges of Barry Comprehensive.

Judges were Terry Brooks and Roger Mundy of Cardiff Speakers Club, and Jill Osborne of Barry Rotary Club. Roger spoke for the judges and gave helpful advice for future contests.

Both winning teams will now go onto the next stage to be held at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg on Wednesday, February 16, competing with other Vale teams.

In summing up, David Ball, president-elect of Barry Rotary Club, said that he congratulated the winners, but all participants had distinguished themselves simply by competing.

RP

Group back to normal after December snow

NEWS FROM BARRY WI

DECEMBER meetings took place as usual, until the snow came!

The Christmas lunch at the Beech Tree was a great success and also the Tuesday afternoon meeting.

A big thank you to Jean Thomas for supplying all the goodies to enable the ladies to create the Christingle story.

This was followed with a raffle, tea and coffee and mince pies.

The Tuesday evening meeting was cancelled, which was our Christmas party.

The drama group had rehearsed a show for months, so all members were very disappointed when the evening was cancelled. It has been decided they will put the show on at the March meeting.

January meetings were back to normal. Tuesday afternoon, Hoi bingo and refreshments, keep fit (Wednesday), sewing circle (Thursday), will take place weekly.

The Tuesday evening meeting was very well attended, with six new (hopefully new members) ladies attending.

The ladies paid their subs, received their newsletters and their yearly programme.

The talk was 'GI Brides of Barry'. The ladies found this very interesting.

JC

Victoria Park's early bird dog walkers in a plea for a 7am opening time

A keen dog walker feels that a popular Barry park should be available for use earlier in the mornings.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

Some people would like to walk their dogs in Victoria Park earlier than the 8am official opening time.

The official opening time for Victoria Park in Cadoxton is 8am and its closing time is dusk, but Carol Watts told The GEM that it meant some local residents who leave early in the morning for work missed out.

She said: "I have always liked to visit Victoria Park with my three dogs – and with an elderly dog I even used to use a pushchair!

"Because I have to get to work, I like to give the dogs a walk at around 6.30am to 7am."

An arrangement was made so that Carol, who is CRB checked and works for social services, was handed a key and was able to open up the park at 6.30am in the morning.

"A group of about five of us were then able to give our dogs some exercise early in the morning."

But the situation changed when a group called 'The Friends of Victoria Park' was formed in November.

"Those of us who worked were unable to attend the meeting and to my dismay when they circulated the minutes a paragraph stated: '*The Friends want the park to be opened and closed at the times stated ie. 8am until dusk (times posted on the notice board) with the exception of special events.*'"

Later, she received an email telling her to ring the park's manager because he wanted the key to be returned.

So after two years and 11 months of having a key and operating an arrangement which had worked smoothly, Carol was forced to hand it back.

Carol pointed out that since dusk in the winter is often around 4pm to 5pm, and the park is only opening at 8am, it means that working people are effectively unable to use it throughout the week.

"I don't want to have to traipse round the streets when I take my dogs for a walk in the mornings.

"To the people running Victoria Park and the Friends, I would say move forward with the times and listen to everyone – not just those able to make your meetings.

"Surely we live in a democracy where we should all be able to contribute to decisions being made."

Carol believes local secure parks should be available for use from 7am, and if that is not possible in general, that an arrangement should be struck so that Victoria Park's early birds are not alienated.

However, there appears little hope for a compromise.

Phil Beaman, operational manager parks and grounds maintenance for the Vale Council, commented: "When the Lottery-funded refurbishment of Victoria Park had been completed, it was important to secure the park to prevent damage or anti social behaviour in the site to protect the Heritage Lottery Fund and Vale Council's major investment for the community. At the time, I understand Carol Watts and a few others assisted the parks and grounds maintenance section on a voluntary basis ,unlocking the park so it could be used by local residents. I was recently informed that the only person still to have an official key was Carol Watts.

"As Victoria Park is now fully staffed, the locking was reviewed. All other parks in Barry that are locked, are open and closed by trained and qualified parks staff.

" After considering representations from our users, I felt it was not equitable that only one member of the community had a personal key to access Victoria Park and I asked the Parks Manager to get the key returned.

"I can appreciate Carol's disappointment, but the park is open during the day so dogs can be exercised at lunch time.

"When Victoria Park is locked, there are a number of safe open spaces locally that can be used at any time so dogs can be exercised without the need just to walk around the streets."

Jamie and pals quiz politicians on deaf issues

A LOCAL deaf boy, Jamie Miller (13) from Barry, recently put politicians on the spot over issues facing deaf children in Wales.

Jamie and eight deaf pupils, from St Cyres School in Penarth and Llanishen High School in Cardiff, went to the Senedd to find out what each of the main political parties is proposing to do for deaf young people in Wales.

As ambassadors for the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Cymru, the budding young journalists quizzed Ann Jones (Labour), Bethan Jenkins (Plaid Cymru), Mark Isherwood (Conservatives) and Eleanor Burham (Liberal Democrats), on a number of issues that are important to them.

These included the need for improved deaf awareness in schools and public places, better access to sport and leisure activities, and more signing in museums.

Jayne Dulson, the director of NDCS Cymru, said: "The young people did a fantastic job interviewing the politicians today. They raised a number of issues that are important to them and many other deaf young people across Wales."

Jamie Miller, who attends St Cyres School, would like to see better access to audiology services. He said: "We have to miss school to go to the hospital about our hearing aids. It would be helpful if an audiologist could visit the school."

NDCS Cymru will be asking Assembly candidates to make a commitment to improve services for deaf children and their families in Wales, ahead of May's election.

Jodie seeks a title (and donations for Joshua fund!)

LEFT: Jodie Hopkin will take part in the 'Miss Vale of Glamorgan' event at Porthcawl Grand Pavilion on February 11.

A 21-year-old Barry woman, who is taking part in Miss Vale of Glamorgan, is raising funds for The Joshua Foundation.

Jodie Hopkin hopes her participation will help to boost a charity that has run since 1998 and supports children coping with cancer.

She said: "Miss Vale of Glamorgan takes place at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl on February 11, so I've got just two weeks to raise money for the charity.

"I'm running a raffle and people can buy tickets from my mother's shop Room Designs and Furnishing at 118A Park Crescent.

"The first prize is a family holiday to Lapland; the second prize is a Euro Disney break for two adults and two children; and the third prize is a luxury weekend at the Langan Hotel in London with dinner at Gordon Ramsey's restaurant."

Jodie is no stranger to charity fundraising – she once helped to raise £3,500 for south Wales youngster Lexi Hailstone, who suffers from 'deletion syndrome'.

"One day I would like to make a career in charity fundraising.

"At the moment, I work part of the week at Room Designs and part of it at Atlantic College where I help to process applications."

At the Miss Vale contest Jodie will have to model three outfits, jeans and a Welsh top, a black dress and a ball gown, followed by an interview with one of the judges.

She said: "I won't be nervous. It will be a good experience."

Jodie's mum Meryl added: "Jodie has recognised the opportunity, through the competition, to actively help other people and expand on fundraising that she has been successful with recently."

Anyone who wishes to vote for Jodie, can text 81118, or telephone 09012937925.

Have you lost camera card?

AN SD card for a camera has been found in the Buccaneer pub, Barry.

The photos appear to include a holiday to Australia (dated March, 2010), completion of a marathon in Jersey for Barnardo's (dated October 2010) and the birth of a baby (dated December, 2010).

If you think the card belongs to you, please contact The GEM to arrange a collection.

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL
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GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Applications are invited from local voluntary and not for-profit organisations seeking financial assistance in 2011/12. Forms are available from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA. Telephone: (01446) 738663 Fax (01446 704929).

Your constitution and latest audited accounts must accompany the application. New organisations must submit a business plan/budget in place of audited accounts. All applications complying with these criteria ill be considered. The submission of an application does not guarantee that a grant will be awarded.

The Council is unable to consider applications from or on behalf of National Organisations, unless they can demonstrate that their services benefit a significant proportion of the local community.

Applications should be returned to the address given below by or before Tuesday 1st March 2011.

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Mussels and King Prawn Linguine *in Thai chilli cream sauce and garlic Chiabatta.*
Potato, Taleggio and Spinach Tart (v) *served with dressed salad and todays bread.*
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Engineer fined after injuring a man in Barry

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

AN aircraft engineer has been fined £2,000 and ordered to pay compensation of £600, and £600 prosecution costs, at Cardiff Crown Court for injuring a man in a pub with a glass.

Daniel Bell (36) formerly of Barry, but now living in Toulouse, admitted causing Daniel Wiltshire actual bodily harm.

The court heard that Bell told the police after the incident that he had been to Newbury Races on the day in question, and had drunk 15–20 pints of cider.

Judge Phillip Richards told him: "If you are going to drink regularly, it's not going to be very long before you become very ill.

"You struck a blow which could have had very considerable consequences, and which could have caused eye damage."

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that on July 7, two groups of people were drinking in the Millwood Inn, Barry.

At one point, one group became involved in a fracas with the landlord over the cost of a family Christening.

People tried to intervene but with no success.

Mr Wiltshire got up and remonstrated, trying to calm things down.

Mr Greenwood said that Bell, who was not a ringleader, "launched a blow" towards Mr Wiltshire, hitting him in the left side of his face near the eye. The glass he was holding shattered on impact.

"It was not surprising that Bell was drunk, considering the amount of alcohol he had taken," said Mr Greenwood.

"Bell said he did not recall events clearly, but he believed he had felt threatened, thrust out a hand, not realising he was holding a glass."

Geoffrey Jones, representing Bell, said: "The loss of his liberty would mean the loss of a very good job. There is a positive and charitable side to this man.

"He has in the past suffered depression. He is not a hardened drinker, and the attack was not sustained, but there was an element of recklessness."

Man (19) armed himself with broken beer bottle

POLICE in Barry were alerted when a CCTV operator spotted a young man in the town centre who had armed himself with a broken beer bottle.

At Cardiff Crown Court Ashley Macarthy (19), an apprentice welder of Barry, admitted a public order offence and possessing an offensive weapon and was made subject to a community order for six months, was fined £500, ordered to pay £200 costs, and was made subject to three months curfew from 8pm to 7am.

He will be electronically tagged.

Judge Neil Bidder told him: "You caused the police no trouble, but you were very drunk and you tried to say you didn't harm anyone, and you retained some common sense"

He added: "I accept yours was a spontaneous reaction after an attack on a friend. You have a very supportive family and if you rely on your mother's support you will not go far wrong. You are a young man with a decent education."

Prosecutor Michael Jones said that a CCTV operator spotted Macarthy in High Street, Barry, acting aggressively holding a beer bottle.

"He was agitated when a friend tried to restrain him. A member of the public took the beer bottle from him, he walked to Market Street, went into an alleyway and emerged holding a broken beer bottle by the neck, which he put into a pocket of his jeans."

Police Constable Catherine George later approached him and told him to remove it, which he did and dropped it.

He said that he had become angry because a friend had been "bottled". He admitted acting stupidly.

His counsel Tom Crowther said: "He lives with his mother, and has done everything he can to make amends."

Plaid group raise council house transfer concerns in the Senedd

Jocelyn Davies, Chris Franks AM, Couns Val Hartrey, Margaret Randall. (Standing: Couns Keith Hatton and Chris Williams.

CONCERN over the sale of council houses prompted Vale councillors to call for a Senedd meeting with Housing Minister Jocelyn Davies AM

Plaid Cymru AM Chris Franks, who arranged the meeting, said: "Plaid is concerned that if our council houses are sold off under 'housing stock transfer' plans, that commercial interests could be prioritised over tenants' needs.

"There is a substantial amount of council housing where improvements are needed to bring it up to the Welsh government's standards. Whatever happens to the ownership of the homes, there needs to be substantial investment.

"I would like to thank the Minister for meeting with the Vale councillors regarding passing council housing out of the Vale Council's control.

"It shows the difference between Ministers in Westminster and those in Cardiff; they are far more responsive to people's needs."

The Regional AM, who represents the Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff and Rhondda Cynon Taf, added: "The estimated cost for Welsh councils to remedy the most dangerous hazards in council housing is £50 million. All of this money could be found if the housing funding was reformed by the government in Westminster.

"The scheme currently forces Welsh councils to pay millions each year from their housing budgets to the Treasury in London.

"The Tories crippled Wales by placing us in the scheme. Scotland and Northern Ireland were excluded.

"Scandalously, under Labour, absolutely nothing was done to change the system. This ensured that we lost out on £1 billion between 1999 and 2010.

"The housing subsidy scheme is taking £100million every year from Welsh councils. This results in a lack of resources for housing repairs."

Assembly praise for Safer Vale's efforts

THE Safer Vale crime prevention partnership's newly-refurbished premises at the town's fire station had a visit last week from Social Justice Minister, Carl Sergeant AM.

The Safer Vale Partnership works across the Vale to prevent domestic abuse, substance misuse and hate crime. The Partnership also runs a number of youth programmes.

Carl Sargeant said: "Crime in all its forms can severely blight a community, so it's important that organisations such as Safer Vale have the facilities they need to get to the root of the issues.

"The new prevention room is a great base for different groups to get together and look at ways to overcome the issues that affect them and their community.

Vale MP's surgeries

VALE MP Alun Cairns will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, February 4, at the following locations:

9.30am–10.30am at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road, Llantwit Major.

11.15am–12.15pm in the Phillip John Room at Barry Library, Kings Square, Barry.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but surgeries are very busy, and it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

EXTRA-CARE APPLICATION

A PLANNING application has been submitted to the Vale Council to develop the Theatre Royal site in the town.

The Hafod Care proposal is for the "construction of a new Extra-Care development, to provide 42 flats and associated communal and ancillary spaces".

The Save Our Cinema Association remains opposed to the scheme, arguing that the Extra Care facility should be located at the Waterfront.

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‘Save our school patrols!’ Dinas Powys villagers in early morning protest

Protesters outside Dinas Powys Infants’ School were proclaiming the message: ‘Save our school patrol’.

A protest was held on Tuesday morning in Dinas Powys by people opposed to the planned removal of a lollipop man and woman in the village.

One local protester at Dinas Powys Infants’ School was Mrs Joyce Wilson, who was a lollipop lady at the traffic light junction on the main road for 30 years and retired five years ago.

She told The GEM: “It is very bad that people are being made redundant. It is so so busy there. I know there are lights there, but cars sometimes jump the lights.

“During my day, there were times when the police would come down and check and catch cars jumping the lights.

“Sometimes the lights would break down and then you’d have cars coming from four directions – occasionally they would refuse to give way and it would be horrendous.

“I’m sure these things still apply today.

“Sometimes I’d hear a police car or ambulance coming and stop the youngsters crossing even though the crossing showed a ‘green man’.

“People doing this job are not earning a fortune. It will not save that much money, I know that for a fact.

“Children need supervision because when they go home they are excited, talking to eachother and not always taking notice of what is around them.

“I feel strongly this should not happen.”

Regional Assembly Member Chris Franks met parents, teachers and schoolchildren at the protest. He said: “The turnout early on a cold morning was impressive.

“We had tremendous support from passing motorists and pedestrians too.

“The organisers did an excellent job. Plaid is demanding answers from the Vale Council. I have written to the council outlining the concerns of my constituents.

“These lollipop people have ensured the safety of our children for many years. As far as I can see there can be no justification for the removal of the school crossing patrols in Dinas Powys.”

Jane Hutt, the Vale AM, also attended the protest.

She explained: “I was contacted by a number of parents and by young people who are concerned about the loss of these services in Dinas Powys on the busy roads.

“I am raising these issues with the Vale Council and was glad to have the opportunity of visiting Dinas Powys Infants’ School to talk with parents and governors.”

Parents have organised a further protest for today (Thursday, February 3) at 3.15pm.

The head of Vale planning and transportation, Rob Thomas, explained: “The temporary contracts of four school crossing patrol officers – two at Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys, one at Lavernock Road, Penarth and one in Cadoxton, Barry - are not being renewed after Easter 2011.

“These are not redundancies and all four officers were aware they were due to finish employment with the council in April.

“All four are based at sites where there are physical road safety measures (signals with pedestrian phasing).

“The council will be looking to increase its mobile school crossing patrol officers so that a service can continue to be delivered at the sites in question beyond April, pending a full review of school crossing patrol sites. This review will be subject to consideration by the council’s cabinet and consultation will be carried out in due course.”

Mr Thomas added: “Mobile school crossing patrol officers can work at any site across the Vale and are not restricted to single sites.”

TIM CHAPMAN

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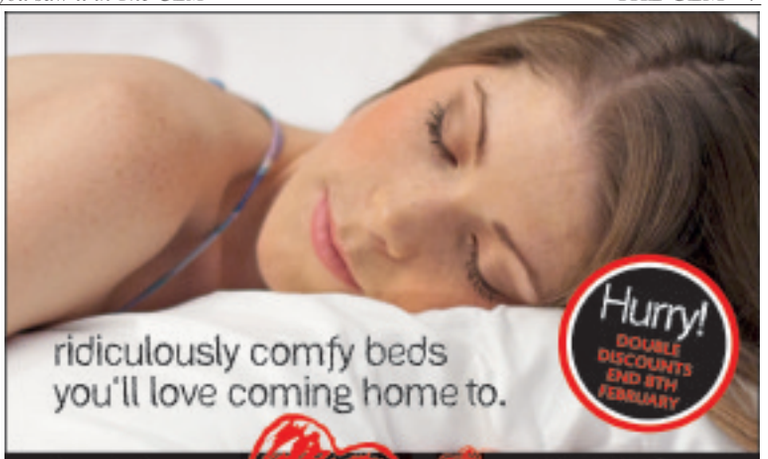

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TYPICAL 0%APR

GLIDING COURSE IS 'AMAZING'

Megan is flying high with 372 Squadron!

PICTURED: Sargeant Megan Palmer-Wood of 372 (Barry) Squadron.

SERGEANT Megan Palmer-Wood, aged 16, of 372 (Barry) Squadron, recently completed her gliding scholarship in the modern Vigilant glider.

Megan received many hours of supervised gliding instruction over several weekends. The training became ever more intense in the build up to her final test flight.

Many hours were spent in lectures understanding subjects such as airmanship, rules of the air, meteorology, principles of flight, air navigation, safety, engine failure and emergency procedures.

Megan also experienced flying in thermals. This greatly benefited her with additional hands-on flying time, honing her flying skills to the very highest of standards. Showing dedication and commitment, Megan realised her dreams of completing her gliding scholarship.

Megan said; "I am really pleased to have completed this amazing course.

"I really enjoy flying and to take complete control of a glider by myself is amazing. I was really chuffed when I was presented with my gliding wings".

The Air Training Corps encourages Cadets of all ages to undertake their Gliding Induction Course training soon after joining the ATC.

The Cadets begin with the Gliding Induction Course (GIC) whereby Cadets are given a 20 – 30 minute sortie learning the basics of how to fly a glider (except for taking off and landing).

The next stage is the gliding scholarship which generally trains the candidate to fly to solo standard. Megan has been with 372 Squadron for four years and has attended summer camps at RAF stations, flown in RAF aircraft, and undertaken adventure training exercises.

She is a keen marksman and has completed her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13–18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7–9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734 or email oc.372@aircadets.org for more information.

JASON HORTON

Sixth formers to sky dive for Heroes charity

Christina Brown and Sasha Morgan.

SIXTH formers, Christina Brown and Sasha Morgan, of Bryn Hafren School, Barry, are planning a sky dive to raise funds for Help for Heroes.

They have been busy trying to raise the £600 by organising cake breaks and washing staff cars; also making bracelets and selling them.

Christina said: "We're both very excited about the idea and can't wait to do the jump. We chose 'Help for Heroes' because we feel this is an extremely good cause and Sasha's uncle is in the forces."

FOR SALE BY INFORMAL TENDER

THE OLD PLACE, CASTLE STREET, LLANTWIT MAJOR

- Ruins of a late 16th Century mansion with enclosed forecourt.
- Site Area circa 0.17 hectares (0.42 acres)
- Freehold with Vacant Possession

Applications for Tender documents are now invited from interested parties.

Closing date for receipt of initial completed tenders documents is 12 noon, Friday 4 March 2011.

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Estates Section
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices, Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU
Tel: 01446 709756
E-Mail: scornwell-shaw@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Penarth computer club news round-up 'Brains Trust' has all the answers...

WE are a fairly lighthearted club, so it was not entirely surprising that our first Brains Trust evening turned out to be quite a fun time.

I reminded everyone that although Steve and Mike J put themselves up front as the brains, it might well be that one of the other members could have an alternative answer and should feel free to contribute to the response.

We had the luxury of having two laptop computers available; one running Windows XP and one running Windows 7, so we were ready to demonstrate an answer on either system as appropriate.

As this was being set up, Mike displayed the club website and asked members to visit it online and comment upon its layout and content.

For the benefit of those further from the screen, the page was enlarged triggering an interjection from Colin of: "That's what I want to be able to do! How did you do it?"

This led to the demonstration that holding down the Control key and pressing the plus key will zoom into the page (known as Ctrl+). To zoom out, press Ctrl and minus, (Ctrl-).

Roy had been keen to ask the first question, but was forced to settle for asking the second one (see above!)

He was advised to use a full Windows 7 Home Premium rather than to use a slightly cheaper upgrade package as it would be easier for him to do it himself.

It was also noted that there was no upgrade for XP to Windows 7, a clean install was required, but Microsoft had provided some assistance in the package for transferring files.

Questions about web browsing brought out a couple of points.

The use of tabs was explained. If you click on a series of links, the viewed page is changed each time and the back-arrow has to be used to go back to previous pages.

It is awkward to move easily between pages to compare them as they might not be next to each other in the viewing sequence.

Tabs make life easier. This involves right-clicking on a link and selecting 'open link in new tab'. The link is opened into a new tab (displayed near the top of the window beneath the toolbars).

With several tabs open, simply click on the tab you want to view without having to step between any intervening ones. Any tab can be closed individually.

The function button F5 at the top of the keyboard will force a refresh on the active web window. This is useful as the open window might have been stored on your computer if you have visited it before; or it might have been updated since it was first displayed in your current browsing session.

Suitable free security software was identified, as were arguments for and against disk defragging, as part of computer housekeeping. I will deal with those at another time.

We next meet on Tuesday, February 8 at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30 for 8.00pm. Mike J will be showing how desk top publishing can improve your documents. Visitors are welcome.

HOWARD DESMOND

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

'Abysmal ambulance response times: How the Vale is lagging behind'

Vale MP Alun Cairns
reports to GEM readers

ONE of the first surgery cases I dealt with since my election in May 2010 was one dealing with the poor response times of ambulances in the Vale.

At the time, the Assembly Minister responsible for health offered warm words, but nothing was really done to rectify the matter.

All too regularly I hear of difficulties in gaining an ambulance. Unless things change, it is only a matter of time before it makes the difference between life and death.

The GEM recently reported the disbelief expressed by Llantwit Major Councillor Gwyn John at the details publicised by Andrew RT Davies AM, of the thousands of hours of ambulance cover lost due to the time ambulances spend waiting outside hospitals to discharge patients.

Since then, new data has been published by the Welsh Assembly Government which highlights how the Vale of Glamorgan is once again lagging behind the national target in terms of ambulance response times to emergency calls.

While the severe weather conditions in December clearly affected most of Wales, only 48.1 per cent was achieved in the Vale in terms of emergency responses arriving at the scene of a Category A (immediately life-threatening) calls within eight minutes – against the target of 60 per cent set for all the local health boards. With more than 470 calls made to attend an incident in December 2010, it's crucial that the service for the Vale is improved.

Of more concern, however, is the fact that the response times across all the different categories of calls (as noted by WAST), from eight minutes upwards to 21 minutes, have been falling over the last two months of 2010, and are below the All Wales targets for each category.

These figures are abysmal, and an indictment of just how bad the situation facing the Welsh NHS has become. While, of course, the weather has played a part, we are seeing a sustained trend of ambulances failing to respond promptly to emergency calls.

I have no doubt that the hard work and dedication of ambulance staff across the Vale continued throughout December, yet these figures are the worst we have seen in several years.

So, questions need to be asked at the highest level of the Assembly Government – why weren't the emergency services better prepared for the winter weather?

Staffing and budgetary pressures also need to be addressed, and the Assembly needs to work more effectively with trust bosses and local health boards.

Cold weather and poor management of hospital patient discharges needing ambulance transportation cannot be allowed to continue to damage emergency response times so severely, and the Assembly Government must urgently work towards a vast improvement.

Barry students (and staff) are regular media pundits!

PICTURED: Mr Emery, Lewis Jenkins, Luke Elworthy, Charlotte Harris, Caelum Davies and Miss Morgan being interviewed by ITV Wales education correspondent Joanna Simpson

David Swallow, live on ITV Wales Tonight with Jonathan Hill and Frances Donovan

THE reactions of Barry Comprehensive students and staff to the latest education news in Wales were sought by ITV Wales Tonight twice last week.

On Monday, January 24, Joanna Simpson, the education correspondent, called in to ask sixth form students Caelum Davies, Charlotte Harris, Luke Elworthy and Lewis Jenkins, and teachers Miss Morgan and Mr Emery, their views on Plaid Cymru's proposals regarding shortening the summer holidays and restructuring school terms.

Their discussion was shown on that night's edition of the programme.

On Tuesday, headteacher David Swallow was invited to the ITV Wales studios to talk to Jonathan Hill and Frances Donovan about Estyn's annual report on education and training in Wales.

The interview was broadcast live on the evening edition of ITV Wales Tonight.

Dyfan By-election 2011

Fed Up With Party Politics?

Support FocusBARRY

Thursday 10th Feb.

Vote: Jeffrey Heathfield X

Promoted by Richard Bertin on behalf of Jeff Heathfield

Commitment to supporting public spending in construction makes economic sense...

AS we near the final debate on our Welsh Assembly Government Budget for the next three years, we are making daily decisions to fund construction projects which benefit our schools, colleges, housing and road maintenance in Wales.

As Finance Minister, I have been absolutely clear that we need to continue to support the construction sector who contribute to our infrastructure – to help get the economy moving again. Last June, the UK Government imposed a £47m cut on our capital funding in Wales, which would have affected all our public sector building projects and the jobs they support in the construction industry.

We did not make that cut, we have used every means to offset that cut by efficiencies and savings in our budget. That was widely welcomed by the private and public sector.

I am spending every available £1 in this year's budget, including decisions announced this week to fund more maintenance for further education colleges, more diagnostic equipment for the NHS, more extra care housing schemes and, perhaps most topically, more money for road maintenance to tackle the potholes which are blighting our residential and commercial roads and streets.

This follows a package I announced before Christmas to fund all these important areas of spending including flood alleviation, home energy efficiency and school maintenance.

This is a fiscal stimulus which is vital for the renewal of the Welsh economy.

I have been delighted to see the extensive construction work that is being undertaken in Barry as a result of the substantial investment by the Welsh Assembly Government in the regeneration programme.

The funding agreed by the Barry Regeneration Area Board for this financial year is already being spent. When the West Quay Medical Centre was opened two weeks ago, work on the footpath below, linking the centre to Broad Street, High Street and the wider Waterfront was still under way. Now the work is finished, making good access to the new centre from the residential and commercial areas with pedestrian use already increasing to this area of Barry.

More than £400,000 is being spent on upgrading and rebuilding play areas in Weston Square, Basset Park and Iolo Park.

For the promotion of economic development, workshop improvements are being funded in the Vale Enterprise Centre and workshops are being converted to office space at the BSC in the innovation quarter.

With Welsh Assembly Government funding the rural development plan for the rural Vale, projects are also being funded like the inspiring new Ewenny playground and the regeneration of Llantwit Major centre.

We will shortly be publishing our capital programme for 2011/12, where the biggest cuts are hitting us from the spending review. It is vital that we support the important programmes of investment in the NHS and schools' estate, as well as our social housing and transport infrastructure.

VULNERABLE

Alongside our final budget, we will be publishing our equality impact assessment of the difficult budgetary decisions we have had to make, and that assessment looks at the needs of vulnerable people, our schools and skills, health and social services – as well as the impact of budget cuts on the private sector.

As well as forecasting job losses in the public sector, as a result of the UK Government's deep cuts, we are also assessing the impact of the austerity measures on the private sector, suggesting private sector job losses next year, exacerbated by the economy shrinking in the last quarter and consumer confidence at an all time low.

In Wales, our new economic policy aims to help grow the private sector and encourage entrepreneurship, so that they can create the jobs and prosperity we need to foster.

Investment in apprenticeships continues and our continued funding of the educational maintenance allowance will help support young people and their families to stay in education and training.

We have a public duty to manage our constrained finances responsibly and fairly for the benefit of the people we serve, especially the most vulnerable who will be hit hardest by the UK Government budget as the Institute of Fiscal Studies has once again confirmed.

We also seek to play our part in securing the recovery of our economy by supporting the private sector, particularly where we can make an impact in the construction of projects for the public good.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Assembly Minister for business and budget)

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85 Holton Road, Barry

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Former First Minister was inspired by Vale walks with pal Tell...

PICTURED: Rhodri Morgan AM and Julie Morgan with Jane Hutt AM.

WITH funds raised by donations, a portrait by David Griffiths,of the former First Minister and Vale resident, Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM was unveiled last week in the Senedd.

The portrait shows Mr Morgan with his dog, Tell, at a stile in Michaelston-le-Pit near his home.

Assembly Presiding Officer, Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas, said the portrait would hang in the Pierhead building.

Vale AM Jane Hutt, who attended the ceremony, said: "Rhodri Morgan was an outstanding First Minister for nearly 10 years.

"He always said that the walks with his dog in the lovely area surrounding his home in Michaelston-le-Pit, helped him in meeting the challenge of this formidable role.

"This has been captured in this excellent portrait which will hang in the Pierhead building in Cardiff Bay."

Ty Hafan rollover reaches heights

THERE is a chance *to win £11,000 in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot rollover – which has reached its highest value since the lottery started.*

The hospice lottery, which has been running since 1998, has paid out almost £2 million to lucky winners all over Wales who choose to support Ty Hafan in this way.

The draw will be made on Friday, February 4, and tickets can be bought from the Ty Hafan shop in High Street, Barry

You can also join the Crackerjackpot over the phone by calling 029 2067 2062 or online at www.tyhafan.org/play-crackerjackpot.

STAR'S TRIBUTE TO GAVIN AND STACEY'S MARGARET

Gavin and Stacey star James Corden has paid tribute to fellow star Margaret John, who has died at the age of 84 after a short illness.

Margaret John played the role of Doris, Gwen's eccentric elderly neighbour in the hit Welsh sitcom filmed in Barry.

James Corden said: "All my thoughts are with the family of Margaret John, who played Doris in Gavin and Stacey.

"She was a great actress and an incredible lady."

Swansea-born Margaret had a distinguished career, which included roles in many of Britain's top shows including Coronation Street, Last of the Summer Wine and Emmerdale.

In 2009, she received a Bafta Cymru Lifetime Achievement Award.

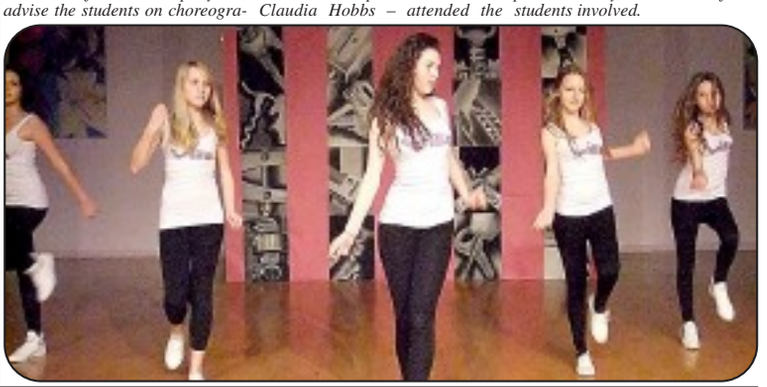
Students in dance workshop

THE National Dance Company of Wales is holding contemporary dance workshop with year-9 students from Howell's School, Llandaff on February 9.

Dancers from the company will advise the students on choreography and performance . The girls will attend a performance by the company at the Wales Millennium Centre on March 7.

Recently, six year-9 girls – Katie Gough, Kristen Mackey, Ella Mayberry, Georgia Hawkins, Zadeiah Campbell-Davies and Claudia Hobbs – attended the Girls' Day School Trust Day of Dance at Brighton and Hove High School, where they took part in dance workshops which included contemporary ballet, musical theatre and street dance.

Thirteen other schools took part in the day, with a total of 150 students involved.

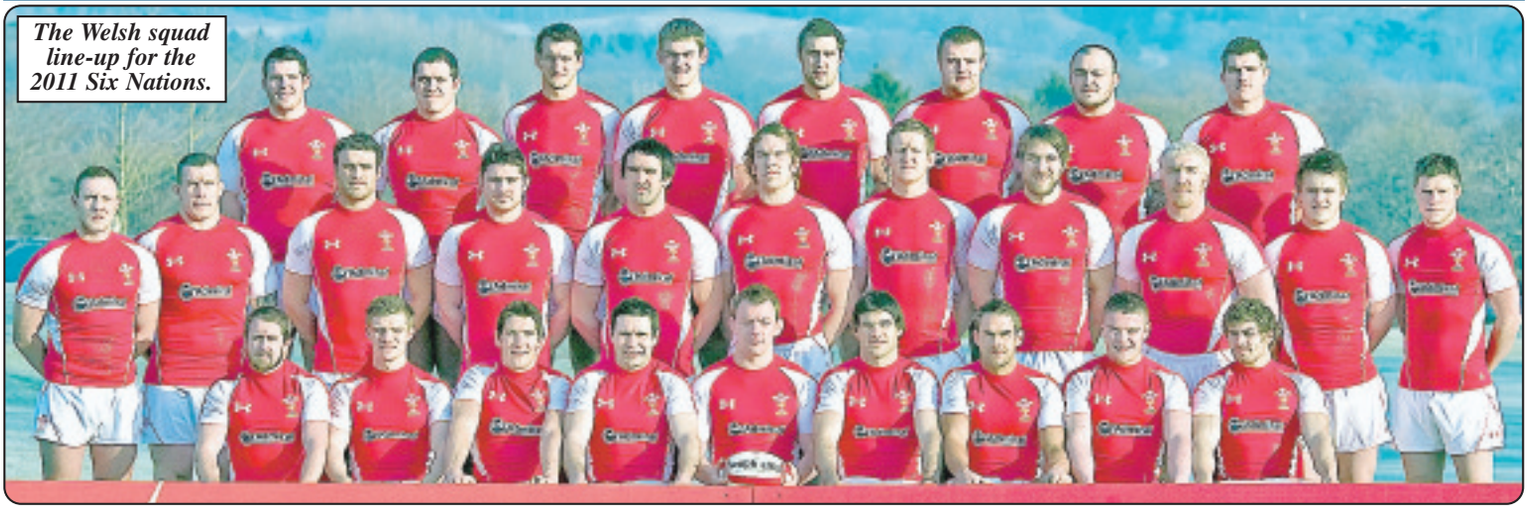


Ward advice surgery

LABOUR Vale and Barry Town councillors for Castleland ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake and Karl Kuhnell, will hold their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, February 5, from 10.30am–12pm at the Drop-In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Thompson Street Estate, Barry. No appointment is necessary. Contact Coun Elmore on 07867 506116 or 01446 401595.

SIX NATIONS RUGBY

2011 FIXTURES



The Welsh squad line-up for the 2011 Six Nations.

As two arch rivals prepare to kick off again in world's oldest rugby championship...

After the 2005 and 2008 Grand Slams, Wales hopes that history repeats itself!

AT 7.45pm tomorrow evening (Friday, February 4) the oldest rugby championship in the world kicks off when the two teams that launched it 129 years ago, lock horns again at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

It was on an inauspicious day at Swansea in 1882 that Wales played England for the first time in what was then known as the International Championship, confined to just the four home nations.

England ran in four tries for a whitewash win, but just 11 years later, Wales revolutionised the game by reducing the nine-man pack to eight and introducing an extra man in the threequarter line. The result was Wales' first-ever Triple Crown.

This heralded the first Welsh 'Golden Era', as Wales went on to dominate the first decade of the 20th century, remaining unbeaten at home between 1900-1913, including back-to-back Grand Slams in 1908 and 1909.

In 1910, the Four Nations became Five when France entered the championship (though forced to withdraw for a protracted period over the thorny issue of payment to players. How times have changed!)

by Don John

Those early years were also marked by three back-to-back Grand Slams for England (France had to wait until 1997-1998 to record the achievement); but 1950 and 1952 saw two more Grand Slams for Wales, and after a fallow period in the 1960s, the Dragon again dominated the championship, with two Grand Slams during the 'Golden Era' of the Seventies (1971 and 1976), plus five Triple Crowns in 1971,76,77,78,79.

Change came again in 2000 when Italy came on board to complete the Six Nations and in 2005 and 2008, Wales added two more Grand Slams (under Mike Ruddock and current coach Warren Gatland) to complete an overall total of 10 Grand Slams and 20 Triple Crowns.

Of the other nations, England have notched 12 Grand Slams, France nine, Scotland three and Ireland 2.

Last year's champions, France, are the bookies' favourites to retain the title this year, which has the added zest of providing a testing run-in to Rugby World Cup 2011 in New Zealand. Both Wales and England have had their Six Nations preparations partly blighted by injuries to key players, but will nevertheless approach the campaign with quiet confidence, as will the 2009 Grand Slam champions, Ireland, while Scotland could be the dark horses, and lowly Italy are quite capable of again providing a shock or two for the unwary.

Welsh fans will be hoping that history is set to repeat itself, starting tomorrow evening: Both the 2005 and 2008 Grand Slams began with victory over their oldest rivals from across the Severn.

All in all then, a fascinating tournament is in prospect as the six camps not only seek to gain an advantage and make a point to their rivals, but look to lay down a marker for their World Cup aspirations Down Under.

SO LET BATTLE COMMENCE!

The Wales team to face England at the Millenium Stadium on Friday:
James Hook (Ospreys); Morgan Stoddart (Scarlets), Jonathan Davies (Scarlets), Jamie Roberts (Blues), Shane Williams (Ospreys); Stephen Jones (Scarlets), Mike Phillips (Ospreys); Paul James (Ospreys), Matthew Rees (Scarlets, capt), Craig Mitchell (Ospreys), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Bradley Davies (Blues), Dan Lydiate (Dragons), Sam Warburton (Blues), Andy Powell (Wasps).
Replacements: R Hibbard (Ospreys), J Yapp (Blues), R Jones (Ospreys), J Thomas (Ospreys), D Peel (Sale), R Priestland (Scarlets), L Byrne (Ospreys).

SIX NATIONS FIXTURES 2011

4 February:
WALES *v England (Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, 19.45 GMT)*

5 February:
Italy v Ireland (Stadio Flaminio, Rome, 14.30 GMT)
France v Scotland (Stade de France, Paris, 17.00 GMT)

12 February:
England v Italy (Twickenham, London, 14.30 GMT)
Scotland v **WALES** *(Murrayfield, Edinburgh, 17.00 GMT)*

13 February:
Ireland v France (Lansdowne Road, Dublin, 15.00 GMT)

26 February:
Italy v **WALES** *(Stadio Flaminio, Rome, 14.30 GMT)*
England v France (Twickenham, London, 17.00 GMT)

27 February:
Scotland v Ireland (Murrayfield, Edinburgh, 15.00 GMT)

12 March:
Italy v France (Stadio Flaminio, Rome, 14.30 GMT)
WALES *v Ireland (Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, 17.00 GMT)*

13 March:
England v Scotland (Twickenham, London, 15.00 GMT)

19 March:
Scotland v Italy (Murrayfield, Edinburgh, 14.30 GMT)
Ireland v England (Lansdowne Road, Dublin, 17.00 GMT)
France v **WALES** *(Stade de France, Paris, 19.45 GMT)*

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JASON STATHAM'S 'MECHANIC' IS A PREDICTABLE, BUT FUN, ACTION FILM!

WHILE the recent Oscar success of British actors and directors seems to recall Colin Welland's cry that ... *"the British are coming"*, one particular actor has proved to be a mainstay of Hollywood for nearly 10 years, though his Oscar chances are, with the greatest of respect, unlikely at best.

Jason Statham has proved to be a dependable box office draw, and while his films rarely push the boundaries, they more often than not make for an entertaining two hours of your life.

Coming off the back of his adventures with Stallone, Lundgren et al in *The Expendables*, Statham is back headlining in *The Mechanic*.

He plays Arthur Bishop, a hitman known for being one of the best in the business.

When he is asked to take out his mentor Harry (Donald Sutherland) by his boss (Tony Goldwyn), he complies under the belief that Harry has been leaking secrets.

Out of respect for Harry, he then starts to teach Harry's son Steve (Ben Foster) how to become a hit-man, aware of the secret he's hiding from him; but when he discovers that Harry was the innocent party, Arthur and Steve plan revenge...

When recently appearing on The Graham Norton show, Donald Sutherland said that *The Mechanic* was a film that took a wonderful look at father/son relationships; strange, considering that the trailer and poster made it look like every other Jason Statham film out there.

While I hate to disagree with such an acting luminary as Mr Sutherland, I have to say that this is to father/son relationships what *Home Alone* is to childcare – so if you do come to watch Statham emote about parental issues, I'm afraid you will be exiting the cinema with huge disappointment.

However, if you come to watch what he does best (and possibly all he does) then you won't be as disappointed, for while *The Mechanic* is nothing more than the traditional guns 'n' octane actioner, it at least entertains for the duration.

Part of the reason for that is due to 'The Stath', who has cornered the market in these types of films and plays it, as ever, with a straight bat.

While he might lack the acting chops of certain actors, his physical presence and ability, not to mention a brooding charisma, makes him a far more engaging proposition than the action stars of yesteryear who now spend their time making and hawking schlocky, low-grade direct-to-DVD rubbish (yes Steven Segal and Wesley Snipes, I'm talking to you!).

The Mechanic plays to his strength, asking of him a physical performance that he has little difficulty in essaying, while the more dramatic elements of the story are handled well.

It helps that the heftier weight is picked up by dependables such as Sutherland and Ben Foster.

While the former is a long way from the heights here, he does 'grizzled voice of experience' wonderfully well, and it is actually a shame his screen time isn't any longer, his coffee shop scene with Statham only hinting at what else he could have offered.

Foster, who has been typecast as the on-edge psychopath in the likes of *Hostage, 3.10 To Yuma* and *30 Days of Night*, here at least offers a variance on the theme as the wayward son who wants to honour his father's memory by becoming a hired killer, with the very faintest edge of psychoticness.

Foster's is the most interesting turn here, the apprentice to Statham's master, and he gives probably the most rounded of the performances as he develops his killing abilities, knowing full well that the big reveal of who killed his father will pop up at some point.

Screenwriters Richard Wenk and Lewis John Carlino deliver a script that is high in generic type, but it fizzes along at a steady pace while offering a decent twisty-turny plot, the story rolling along in the way films of this type do.

The action sequences work well, while the dialogue, no matter how clunky, has a fair few zingers, though sadly most them are unrepeatable in a family newspaper.

Director Simon West, shows his big-budget experience with a much-lower-budget, giving the film a nice visual feel and keeping its gritty look.

Having helmed *Con Air* and *Tomb Raider* (but let's not hold that against him), West isn't short of set-piece ability, and here he gives the spectacle added bloodlust with inventive smackdowns that bristle with hard-hitting and visceral action.

They are hardly the most subtle of sequences, but they deliver what you would want and hope to see in an action film of this ilk, and are steeped in enough reality to hit home.

While the film succeeds by and large, its lack of originality (based on the 1972 Michael Winner film of the same name starring Charles Bronson) coupled with its similarity to the majority of Jason Statham's back catalogue, means that *The Mechanic* is hardly the most box-fresh offering. At times it veers towards being a touch parodic of the likes of *The Transporter*.

However, it is still an enjoyably diverting way to spend 92 minutes, and it certainly doesn't drag its feet in getting towards its somewhat lacklustre, climax; while *The Mechanic* is mainly used parts, the end product is an entertaining, yet ultimately forgettable, piece of work.

VERDICT: *A case of same old for Jason Statham as The Mechanic hits the same buttons the likes of The Transporter and Crank do.*

Despite the lack of originality on show, there is a degree of flair and excitement through Simon West's direction and the pleasing turns of the cast, and it is this that makes The Mechanic a pleasingly slight effort.

Enjoyable.

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

AM'S SURGERY

THE Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery at 115, High Street, Barry, CF62 7DT, this Saturday (February 5) from 10am-12noon. No appointment is necessary.

Contact the constituency office on 01446 740981 for further information.

VALEWAYS WALK

ON Sunday (February 6) at 2.30pm, meet at the Blacksmith's Arms, Llanmaes, for the'Best Kept Midden' walk.

For further information, contact Phil on 07854 526117.

Art4U gets a boost to funds

A £1,000 donation has boosted a Barry charity that helps make art easily accessible to the local community.

Art4U has more than 20 volunteers, including teenagers, the unemployed and the elderly, who take part in projects ranging from constructing public sculptures, organising music recitals, giving educational talks in schools and designing and creating 'friendship trees'.

Art4U plans to use the donation to expand its activities, including buying art materials.

The money came from the Co-operative Bank's customer donation fund, which has given £70,000 to worthwhile causes across the UK since the start of the year.

Glyn Pooley, the chair of Art4U, said: "We're going to use the money donated to us by the Co-operative Bank to continue to fund the creation of outdoor art that the whole community can enjoy.

"We're extremely grateful to the bank for its generous donation which will help to support us in our work."

Famous artist in Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc visit

ON Monday, January 24, pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc had a very special visitor – Welsh artist Ivor Davies, who came to speak to year-3 and year-4 pupils about his work.

Mr Davies spoke about his work on the *Mabinogi* and the Welsh Princes, which was part of S4C's series *Tywysogion.*

He also discussed with pupils his most recent work – a mosaic of Saint David. The mosaic can be seen in Westminster Catholic Cathedral in London, and on his recent visit to the UK, the Pope consecrated the work. The pupils were inspired by the talk and look forward to producing work in his style.

Artist enwog yn Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc

DYDD Llun, Ionawr 24 daeth ymwelydd arbennig i Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc, yr artist enwog Cymraeg, Ivor Davies.

Daeth Mr Davies i siarad gyda disgyblion blwyddyn 3 a 4 am ei waith. Bu'n son ei waith ar y Mabinogi, a'r tywysogion a oedd yn rhan o gyfres S4C am dywysogion Cymru.

Bu hefyd yn son am ei waith diweddaraf sef mosaic o Dewi Sant. Mae'r mosaic i weld yn Eglwys Gatholig Westminster yn Llundain, a chafodd y gwaith ei gysegri gan y Pab ar ei ymweld diwethaf i Brydain. Cafodd y disgyblion eu hysbrydoli, ac maent yn edrych ymlaen at efelychu ei waith yn y dyfodol.

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT *public meeting will be held at the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library on February 14, at 6.30pm.*

ST BRIDES MAJOR PACT, *St Brides Church Hall on February 7, at 6pm.*

St Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council meeting, *at St Nicholas Church Hall on February 7, at 7.30pm.*

RHOOSE PACT Surgery, *the Post Office on February 10, at 10am.*

PENDOYLAN Community Council meeting, *Pendoylan School, on February 10, at 7.45pm.*

LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT, *Ewenny Village Hall, on February 16, at 7pm.*

DINAS POWYS PACT, *on February 7, the Old Library on Britway Road at 7pm.*

CORNERSWELL PACT, *on February 10, in Penarth Leisure*

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Cenotaph: plea for information

I AM a local historian and am researching the names on Pontyclun Cenotaph, with the help of the south Wales branch of the Western Front Association.

There are more than 50 names on the Cenotaph, all of whom were from Pontyclun or the surrounding area.

I would like people to contact me with knowledge of anyone named on the Cenotaph, so that the rather sparse information we have can be updated – and full recognition given to those brave people who gave their lives. In addition, there are a number of people for whom we have no information, other than the names themselves.

I would be particularly interested to have details (no matter how few) on the following:

Private G Arnold; Gunner F W Clark; Private W P Edmunds; Private D J Edwards; Private A F Hunt; G Leyshon; Stnr J Richards; Private A T Willmington.

Can any of your readers help?

Edgeley Thomas (Contact 01443 222798, or email: edgeley.thomas@homecall.co.uk)

Dog fouling and a little girl's distress

I READ with interest the recent letter from a gentleman regarding the fouling by dogs at Barry Island.

There has been a significant increase in dog fouling, from Tynewydd Road to Holton Road, Barry. During the snow, a little girl (who was no more than five years old) slipped and fell on the ice just outside my home.

To add insult to injury, she fell in dog mess, which was spread all over her coat. The child was inconsolable, and the mother was most distressed; it was also upsetting for me to witness it.

We comforted the child as much as possible; the coat was so soiled and foul smelling that we decided to put it in the bin immediately.

I hope this story highlights the consequences of being an irresponsible dog owner and the unnecessary misery this can cause.

Ms Thomas, Barry

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE
Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'IT'S NOT A GOOD TIME TO SPEND MONEY ON BEACH'

WITH the start of a New Year, which by any stretch is going to be a tough one financially, I would like to remind our local politicians that ALL public spending needs to be fully justified.

Over the past year, we have been kept informed, even entertained by the enthusiasm of our local politicians for such projects as the pathway to the Llantwit Major beach, the 'requirement' for a hand rail for the small ramp onto the beach, and the ongoing battle with nature to keep the beach access clear of boulders.

While I cannot fault the well-intentioned efforts to provide for our local area, I would really question the importance (or indeed necessity) for any of this expenditure, at a time when funding is so desperately short and needed in the primary areas of local healthcare, education, and social services.

With regard to the beach area, in particular, let's be realistic and recognise that what we have on our doorsteps is a beautiful, wild and completely tidal rural beach.

What we definitely do not have is a Mediterranean sun plaza – so let's not pretend that we can make a safe 'accessible-for-all' facility of Llantwit beach.

It is what it is – and it is neither practical nor economically sensible to make it anything more. Mother Nature will, in any case, undoubtedly win through – and as the Vale Council's Miles Punter so politely put it in his statement of October 28 last year: "*There are (sandy) beaches in the Vale which allow easier access ….*"

I would therefore urge our local politicians to think of the greater needs of our community and not adopt pet projects that have very limited public support or viability.

It would indeed be interesting to hear from those voters who do actually support these schemes and why they feel that public funds should be spent in these ways – particularly at this time.

Andy Yorath, Llantwit Major

Barry's link with Haiti could help

LETTERS from America and Barry published in The GEM have highlighted the dreadful plight of the Haitian people.

The constant news from that country tells of infighting and corruption. Even the major charities are sometimes at loggerheads as to what to do for the best.

Through your newspaper, we have been given the name of a reliable contact in Pignon, a town in Haiti – Dr Guy Theodore *emailHH5GT@aol.com*

Twinning, donating and sponsoring have all been mentioned. Whatever is decided, wouldn't it be tremendous if a town called Pignon began to hear about the generosity of spirit of a town called Barry in Wales?

Tricia Gray, Barry

WRITE IN! We welcome your views, news and items of local interest. email: ***gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk***

'No avoiding blame for the costly fiasco'

ANDREW DAVIES AM is fully justified in forcing the Welsh Assembly government (WAG) to admit spending many millions on the aerospace business park (The GEM, February 14).

WAG's trumpeting of this as creating a "centre of excellence" was hype that took in the politicians, and has turned into a costly failure.

Apart from the £43.9m on development costs for the ABP itself, WAG spent millions more as their share of the joint bid for the defence training college and ABP.

Our freedom of information request revealed more than £5.3m to a slew of consultants – as evident from the £128k on two bat houses.

There were also staff costs of the nine-strong St Athan team, totalling £235k in 2009-10, and further costs on forced land purchases, which are now redundant.

What of the Minister's decision to wait for the MoD decision on training at Easter (or later)? It's crystal clear they have failed to secure replacement jobs for the ex-DARA workforce, the basic rationale given for the ABP.

The delay looks like an effort to escape blame before the May elections, but it also extends the period of blight on St Athan.

The politicians, of course, blame the MoD for abandoning the ill-conceived privatised defence training plan.

How convenient, but they cannot avoid blame for this costly fiasco and for refusing to open up discussion on a 'plan B' for St Athan.

Max Wallis (Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth)

Beware grass cutter!

I WISH to warn people of the danger of being in any area where a grass cutting machine is in use!

Last summer, when grass cutting was taking place in Barry, a piece of stone flicked up and landed on my head!

I was lucky – my hair stopped my skin being cut, not like the young boy left blind in one eye.

The operator was wearing a helmet; I now know why!

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In Business Update

Pam Greenup for teenage counselling

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Pam Greenup has considerable experience working with teenagers and is a child therapist with a leading Welsh agency counselling survivors of sexual abuse.

Pam is opening a counselling service in the Vale for teenagers and their families.

Often the starting point is having the space to talk and knowing you are heard.

For more information, telephone 01446 775419.

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For more information on the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, contact members@vwbn.org.uk

Vale Women's Business Network

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at Trio Brasserie, Cowbridge, 6.30 - 9pm

Guests and non-members are most welcome! (Guest Membership for this event is £10)
Please email members@vwbn.org.uk to book

This Event is sponsored by VWBN Member Margaret Everson, Director of ringmargaret.com

www.vwbn.org.uk

Hands of an Angel has opened in Barry

HANDS of an Angel Retreat was recently opened on Park Road, Barry, by Julie Milne, an international psychic with more than 20 years' experience, who is a regular face on television and has worked with many of the top psychics.

Julie has a team behind the scenes who are helping her with The Hands of an Angel Retreat, ensuring its success.

There will be an official open day on Saturday, February 5, 10am–4pm, when everyone is welcome to go along for free drinks, nibbles and a free gift.

There will also be taster readings for only £5 on the day with developing psychics.

Hands of an Angel runs an open circle every Monday, 7pm–9pm for people to learn and raise awareness about the spiritual side of life.

Call in to Hands of an Angel at 29c Park Road and discover more about mediumship, tarot readings, angel cards, crystal ball readings, and view a wonderful array of mystic gifts.

To book for readings or for further information, telephone 01446 736444 or 07971 216846.

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EVERYONE is feeling the strain of an uncertain economy: As an employer, you may have legitimate redundancy issues.

This area can be complicated and to get it wrong can be time-consuming and expensive, so taking legal advice from us at an early stage could help avoid litigation.

As an employee, you may find that your employer has not dealt with workplace procedure correctly and you may have recourse against them.

If you believe you have been treated unfairly or discriminated against, it pays to get expert advice as soon as possible.

Your redundancy might be legitimate, but we can still check your award and discuss your case.

Passmores is the only provider of Legal Aid in employment law in the Vale of Glamorgan; contact us to see if you qualify.

For further information, contact David Lewis on 01446 721000 or mail@passmores.com

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A treat for collectors at toy and train sale

THE first sale of the year for Barry's toy and train collectors takes place on Sunday, February 6, at Barry Leisure Centre in Greenwood Street from 10.30am-3pm.

Enthusiasts from all over Wales (and from further afield) will be present, as will the stallholders.

Following on from last month's very successful Cardiff show at the Penarth Leisure Centre, Barry offers collectors another chance to sell and to exchange.

Throughout 2011, seven such shows are taking place – three in Barry and four for Cardiff.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "The two venues (both owned by the Vale Council) offer great facilities, with excellent access and public transport options.

"We bring in our own caterers for the day and this all helps to make for a very happy, social event, rather than just a commercial show.

"Parking is another big selling point and Sundays at Barry allow for virtually unlimited free parking.

"In these difficult economic times, the toy and train sales offer a very reasonable day out, as we have kept our admission charges to a minimum, and the traders are also keeping their prices as low as is possible."

Telephone 01643 702757 and 07966 694579; website www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

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In Business Update

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Guiding Light Centre's courses

CHRISTINE O'NEILL opened the Guiding Light Centre almost four years ago in High Street, Barry, offering Tarot readings and courses; the centre's weekend Tarot course has been nominated as one of the top 10 weekend courses by *The Telegraph*.

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Crystal Therapy, EFT and Reiki, as well as a large selection of crystals, crystal jewellery and Angel cards etc, are also available.

We will soon be opening at a centre in Swansea. Please see website for more details.

CCTV arrests

CCTV working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with three arrests and the location of one missing person in the week ending January 30.

It contacted police on 35 occasions, with one arrest taking place at Glebe Street in Penarth concerning affray; while two more arrests were made at Broad Street, Barry, for alleged public order and being drunk and disorderly.

In addition, a missing person was found safe and well at Holton Road, Barry.

Penarth's Mikado

GILBERT and Sullivan's The Mikado is the latest musical production by Concept Players to be staged at The Paget Rooms stage in Penarth from February 17–19.

The familiar story includes famous songs like Three Little Maids, Wandering Minstrel I, Tit-willow and I've Got A Little List!

Tickets on 029 2049 0019, or can be booked online at www.concept-players.com.

SORT & SAV£

Helping the Community

Mark Rollings, Project Manager of the Sort and Save project with Diane Stringer from Ty Hafan

Sort & Save charities

In these tough economic times, people across Wales are tightening their purse strings and many charities are feeling the strain. However, an innovative new scheme in the Vale of Glamorgan means that residents can donate money to charity without it costing them a penny.

The Sort & Save centre in Llandow enables people to earn money, for themselves or local community groups, from their recycling and a number of local charity partners have already signed up to benefit from the scheme. Ty Hafan, Bridgend based Y-Bont, New Hope, Llantwit Major and Age Concern, Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan are all eligible to benefit from customers' recycling rewards.

In order to participate in the scheme, customers register their details and bring their clean recycling to the Sort & Save centre, where points are awarded according to market value. These points are collected until the end of the year when they are either changed into cash or donated to a local school, charity, sports club or community project. Mark Rollings, Sort & Save project manager said, "We are really pleased to have signed up so many worthy causes and hope that the added incentive of raising money for charity will spur people on to recycle more."

"As a local charity Ty Hafan is delighted to be part of this new and innovative scheme to encourage recycling for the benefit of the environment as well as giving the opportunity for the general public to support us in this way", commented Diane Stringer from the family hospice for young lives based in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Refer a friend! **SORT & SAV£**
…and get a 100 point boost!* Save as you recycle

How it Works
Sort & Save works by financially rewarding our customers for taking the time to sort and bring us their recyclables! We give you your own **FREE** account, on which you can keep track of your effort and points rewards as you deposit more and more recycling into our depot, before rewarding you with cash every 6 months!

And from today we will be rewarding our current customers to the tune of 100 points for every friend that they encourage to sign-up with us. And if you choose to donate these points to one of our partnered charities we will double the reward to 200 points!

You can sign-up for a **FREE** account either instore or online at **www.sortandsave.com**

1. Sign up for **FREE** in-store or online at **www.sortandsave.com**
2. Bring your sorted waste to Sort & Save and start earning recycling points to turn into rewards.
3. Convert your points into financial rewards or invest them into your community by donating them towards LOCAL schools, projects and sports clubs.

*To access this bonus simply ask your friend to include your name in their FREE sign-up process, either in store or online at our website www.sortandsave.com. Your points will then be directly credited to your account when your friend deposits recycling with us for the first time

Where to find us:
Unit 2, Vale Business Park, Llandow CF71 7PA
(behind Llandow Ford)

Year 11 Open Evening

Thursday 17th February
anytime between 4.30pm - 7.30pm
at Barry College, Colcot Road

Go on a guided tour of the college,
visit facilities and see classes in action.

Find out what Barry College can offer you...
Pick up an information bag with a college brochure listing all courses
Chat to Barry College Course Tutors to find out more about courses
Speak to Careers Advisors about making the right choice for you

Go to one of the useful short talks running during the evening, including
'Financial help for students' - Bus Passes, EMA and more.

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Out and About with The GEM

'Miss Vale' hopefuls take to the stage in Porthcawl

THE final of the Miss Vale of Glamorgan contest is just over a week away, and the young hopefuls who will compete for the crown have just been announced.

The winner will, of course, then go on to the national final, with a chance of being crowned 'Miss Wales'.

In total 16 young women will take to the stage. They are:

- Monica Agrezzi, a 16-year-old student from Barry.
- Kelly Barratt, a 17-year-old student from Penarth.
- Jodie Hopkin, a 21-year-old sales manager from Barry.
- Kelly Horrigan, a 19-year-old student from Barry.
- Shanice Huggins, a 17-year-old student from Barr.y
- Victoria John, a 20-year-old student from Llangan.
- Leanne Jones, an 18-year-old student from Llantwit Major.
- Samara Matthews, a 17-year-old student and sales assistant from Barry.
- Tatyana Owen, a 17-year-old student from Barry.
- Anysha Panesar, a 16-year-old student from Llangan.
- Ranya Rigga, a 17-year-old student and waitress from Barry.
- Hannah Thain, a 20-year-old student from Rhoose.
- Aimie Wheatley, a 21-year-old beauty specialist from Llantwit Major.
- Carly Whelpley, a 24-year-old student from Penarth.
- Leanne Whitehorn, an 18-year-old student from St. Athan.
- Kimberley Whitehouse, a 20-year-old receptionist from Llantwit Major.

The final will take place at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion on Friday, February 11.

As in previous years, the contestants will fundraise for The Joshua Foundation – a charity for children with terminal cancer ahead of the big day.

The event organiser, Paula Abbandonato from Vibe, said: "I think we have a tremendous line up of young women in the competition this year.

"They interviewed extremely well and we are confident that the next Miss Vale of Glamorgan will be a good candidate for the Miss Wales crown."

Barnardo's seeks supportive runners

THE countdown has already begun for the Lloyds TSB Cardiff Half Marathon on Sunday, October 16, and Barnardo's Cymru is appealing for runners to support its vital work with vulnerable children.

To register as a runner, visit www.cardiffhalf-marathon.co.uk, ticking – 'I am fundraising for Barnardo's'.

To find out more about running for Barnardo's Cymru, contact Sarah Jordan on 02920 436268 or email sarah.jordan@barnardos.org.uk.

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Bro Radio shadows MP in Commons

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, was 'shadowed' at the Commons – for his local radio station Bro Radio's documentary series *Community Connect*.

Presenter Steve Powell quizzed the MP on his role on a tour of Parliament and sat in on Prime Minister's questions. He also met some Barry residents who had come to watch the debates.

Steve Powell, who is station manager, said: "Our *Community Connect* specials can take our listeners to locations that may not be accessible to members of the public."

The programme will be broadcast on February 8 at 10am. To find out more about Bro Radio, you can listen live at www.broradio.fm.

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA?

Musical evening

THE Tabernacl Music Society is to present an evening of operatic arias, songs from the shows and much more, performed by the musical ensemble Volante.

This talented group comprises TMS' resident accompanist Steven Burges (piano), with three members of Welsh National Opera, Emma Llewelly, soprano, Simon Buttle, tenor, and Julian Boyce, baritone.

It takes place on Sunday, February 6, at 7.30pm at Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend. Tickets £6 at the door or from 01656 654899. AT

Public meeting

THE Barry and Vale 'Yes' campaign will be holding a public meeting to discuss the March 3 referendum for full law-making powers for the National Assembly on Tuesday, February 8, at 7pm in Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

Speakers include former First Minister and Labour AM Rhodri Morgan, Conservative South Wales Central AM David Melding and Plaid South Wales Central AM Chris Franks.

Fibromyalgia Support

THE Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, February 8.

Contact the group leader, Barbara Clissett, on 0845 345 5813 for further details. Calls are charged at standard rate.

Weavers' talk

THE Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will meet on February 9 at 7.30pm, in Old School, Sully, when Joanne Terrar gives a talk on her recent degree course, and the work she produced for it.

Admission: members £2, visitors £3.50. For further details contact Kirsten Gable 01443 650336, or email kirstengable@hotmail.com

Free lecture

CYTUN Social Justice Committee will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, February 9, in All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30pm, when the speaker will be the Rev Roy Jenkins, BBC presenter and chair of 'Christians against torture'.

The subject of his lecture will be 'Why Religious Freedom is Dangerous.'

All are welcome. Admission free.

HOLOCAUST EXHIBITION

The National Holocaust Memorial Exhibition is currently on display at Art Central in King Square, Barry. It is running until February 19, and is open from 10am - 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday. The exhibition is free of charge.

Dip for charity!

ARTHUR Thompson, funeral director with A G Adams & Son in Barry, took to the icy waters of Barry Island in aid of Clic Sargent, the children's cancer charity, and in doing so raised £208.

The charity itself raised just over £5,000 on the day.

Mr Thompson said: "Thanks must go to all those friends who turned up to support the event, and all those who kindly sponsored me."

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This week's Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are the winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D655.

● The rollover, which now stands at £10,500, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 800218.

● £10: 784547; 761006; 741717; 130166; 721760; 408872; 369806; 480416; 533237; 772979; 622785; 625814; 217636; 587124; 838848; 164062; 404916; 760058; 319064; 656279.

● £5: 259022; 316238; 295595; 638110; 730386; 620225; 705657; 807211; 269353; 457676; 408976; 291009; 506724; 261837; 343717; 159672; 894249; 729389; 236378; 670072; 104603; 205740; 629303; 370405; 871345; 271697; 588202; 791074; 125113; 244813; 886458; 767715; 396564; 832255; 121229; 388527; 646772; 618071; 251597; 791118; 654926; 556298; 263352; 857908; 542116; 119365; 703753; 819904; 535412; 758632; 112953; 240014; 631605; 659230; 294365; 384846; 462510; 811026; 136674; 354718.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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The GEM Winter Pet Food Appeal

sponsored by SCATS Farm & Country

More than ever, our local animal shelters are under massive strain to home and feed an ever growing number of pets, that, for one reason or another, are no longer in their own homes.

Most pet owners treat their pets as part of the family and will even be including them in the family Christmas presents!

If you can help feed a sheltered animal this winter, please bring your pet food donation to The GEM in Cowbridge and we will get it to one of the local shelters.

Thank you, from all the animals!

'AN EISTEDDFOD FOR ALL PEOPLE'

– says event chair Dylan

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THE headteacher at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Dr Dylan Jones, has been made the chairman of the local Eisteddfod executive committee – a body with a vital role to play when the national celebration of Welsh culture comes to Llandow in 2012.

Dr Jones had one clear message when he spoke to The GEM about his new post – that the National Eisteddfod will be an exciting and varied event for both Welsh speakers and non-Welsh speakers.

He is confident that the event, running from August 4-11 next year, will be a success – despite competition from the London Olympics, which will be on at the same time!

Dr Jones said: "I do see the Eisteddfod as a chance to include and welcome the entire community.

"It will be a great celebration of Welsh culture, and all the schools in the Vale will be invited to take part."

He said that there was a parallel with his experience in Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. Although it is a Welsh medium school, 85 per cent of the parents are not Welsh speakers. However, he feels that the school has successfully made everyone feel part of the same community.

He said: "The organising committee has set itself a target of raising £300,000, and around the Vale a series of local committees are being set up to achieve this.

"Once again, anyone can get involved, and there will be hundreds of fundraising events taking place over the next 18 months."

He said that this Eisteddfod would honour a number of Vale figures who had made significant contributions to the development of the Welsh language and culture.

He said: "Although the Vale has a reputation as an anglicised area, there are many major figures who deserve recognition – perhaps starting with Iolo Morganwg himself, who staged the first Gorsedd of Bards at Primrose Hill in Cowbridge."

All the schools in the Vale will be invited to send children to 'audition' for the various traditional dance groups that are part of the Eisteddfod.

Dr Dylan Jones will be spreading the Eisteddfod

Dr Jones said: "For instance, the '*Dawns Flodau*' accompanies the Chairing of the Bard, and the children who will have been picked to work with the dance co-ordinator."

He emphasised that anyone who has never visited an Eisteddfod will find far more going on than they might expect.

The main pavilion will, of course, host the competitions, but much more is on offer in the science and technology pavilion, while there will be a literary pavilion as well, a popular feature in recent eisteddfodau.

In addition, there are numerous performance stages, featuring all types of music, from classical to folk and on to rock.

Dr Jones added that he thought that many people were unaware of the economic scale of the Eisteddfod.

He said: "The event will bring in millions to the local economy, with so many people visiting, and with many of them staying in the Vale for several nights as well."

He added that the Vale Council were well aware of these benefits, and that they had received great assistance from senior council officers.

Dr Jones' official duties will start at the Eisteddfod in Wrexham later this year, when there will be a 'handover ceremony' – just like the Olympics.

From then on, it will be down to the various local committees to raise funds and make the Vale's Eisteddfod one to remember!

Computer Club learns new tricks

MEMBERS of the Penarth Computer Club liked the idea of varying the format of the meetings to produce a better mix of detailed working of the basics and general awareness of what computers are capable of.

The notes that accompany our Hints and Tips talk can be found on our website www.penarthcomputerclub.co.uk, but over the years these have grown to the stage that individual points cannot be covered in great detail.

In some instances, a little more explanation is needed and we are going to try to provide that in short sessions at the start of some of our meetings.

After some time using a computer, we know what we want to do with it. Even though we manage to do it, some minor tasks might be fiddly or tiresome. The object of the short sessions will be to remind ourselves of the options we have forgotten about or never got around to learning.

The Windows operating system will always have several ways of doing just about any simple operation. Are you sure that you are using the ones that really do suit the way you prefer to work?

Our short sessions will be looking through the options again.

If you are confident that you do not need to do the exercise as you are already satisfied with your methods, ask yourself this question: 'When I have a Window open on my desktop, how many controls are available to change the size or position of it?'

The first eight are easy because you have four edges and four corners that you can grab to change the size of the window. If you only use the four sides, be aware that there is a sloping double-headed arrow available at each corner that will adjust the two adjacent sides at the same time!

If you didn't immediately spot those eight you might struggle to find the total of 25 that are available in XP (and I could have missed a few). That obviously wasn't enough, because at least another two have been introduced in Windows 7.

If you want to move a document around within the window, I can show you the 11 controls I use.

And don't get me started on the 19 toolbars (all customisable) and the hundreds of dedicated icons that can go on them.

We next meet on February 8 at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30pm, when Mike will be showing how Desk Top Publishing can improve your documents. Visitors welcome. **HD**

The Three Horseshoes give boost to LATCH

THE LATCH charity was the beneficiary after a special evening was held at The Three Horseshoes Public House at Moulton over the weekend.

Thanks to local support, a total of £1,100 was raised which will boost the funds of a cause popularly known as the 'Welsh Children's Cancer Charity'.

Three Horseshoes owner, Richard Peters, said: "It was an awesome evening with music, curry and live entertainment.

"We are already planning to do another one soon!"

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TAKING CARE OF YOUR BEST FRIEND

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Classy Cuts – a great local dog service

CHRIS AMOS is a qualified dog groomer in St Athan and has just launched his own business.

Chris said: "I now have my own business called Classy Cuts in St Athan, and I am grooming from my home, 120 Lougher Place.

"I studied and qualified at Pencoed College and have gained NVQ levels two and three in canine grooming.

"During college, I worked part-time for a mobile dog wash, and once I had finished college I decided to work in a salon in Bridgend.

"I worked there for a year, learning in detail more about the grooming trade.

"During my time there, I also took the opportunity to run the shop on my own for six weeks.

"I loved it so much that I decided to start my own business.

"If you would like any more information, catch me on the 'dog an' bone', or come and sniff us out!"

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TAKING CARE OF YOUR BEST FRIEND

The GEM says 'thank you' for generous response to 'Winter Pet Food Appeal'

DOZENS of sacks of dog and cat food have been donated by generous animal lovers in the Vale to boost an animal sanctuary that homes and cares for abandoned and injured pets. Over the last three months, The GEM has run its 'Winter Pet Food Appeal' and the response has been enthusiastic.

Margaret Vanderwarker of The GEM, who has helped to coordinate the transfer of gifts from local people to the shelter, praised people's generosity.

"We have had no end of sacks of food donated by people.

"At Christmastime, people were even kind enough to bring in festive stockings with treats and gifts for the animals.

"It has really shown how much local people love animals and care about them."

There has even been a touching side to the donations as Margaret explained:

"We have had at least three people who have lost their pets and been thoughtful enough to bring in food which was spare."

The food has been taken to the 'Socelex Animal Ambulance and Sanctuary for Injured Animals'. Supporter Sandra Blight said: "Socelex is a place for unwanted and abandoned animals – dogs, cats, geese, sheep and birds.

"It helps both to care and rehome animals. The work done there is amazing and the organisers have been grateful for the kind donations of food, particularly when the snow was at its worst," she added.

The benefits of owning a cat...

HAVE you ever considered an older cat, instead of a kitten as a companion?

Medical research has indicated stroking a cat can relieve stress and lower blood pressure.

We have a number of cats looking for loving homes, aged from six months to eight years old.

Even a cat of eight years would have approximately another 10 years of life, which might suit a much older person and give loving companionship.

All our cats have been neutered and microchipped. Some are a little nervous as they are used to older people who might have had to give them up to go into homes themselves, leaving their companion behind. These would adapt to a quiet, loving home environment.

Currently, we have an abundance of cats who are desperately in need of a new family or people to care for them.

For an appointment or further information, please telephone Maesteg Animal Welfare Society on 01656 721496, 01656 653456 or 01656 667463. Please leave a message on our answerphone if we are not available.

If you have any donations, bric-a-brac or any unwanted items, please call our shop on 01656 738977 or 721496.

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ALLPETS is now opened under new management in High Street, Barry.

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SUNNYSIDE Cattery is a fully licensed cattery in the Vale of Glamorgan, at Wayside Cottage, Station Road East, Wenvoe.

Within a rural setting in quiet countryside with ducks and chickens, the cattery has a friendly, family atmosphere.

This luxury boarding cattery is recommended by their local vet.

Dawn Rose, the owner, is an avid cat lover and cares for each individual cat. She will also collect and return your pet to you.

With luxury heated chalets, covered runs, special dietary requirements catered for, Sunnyside Cattery is a real must for your pet to feel pampered while you are away.

Telephone 029 2059 4755 for further information.

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Pets 'R' Us is a real magnet for owners

FOR local animal lovers, Pets 'R' Us is a popular destination with a large array of products, and is situated just off Holton Road on Regent Street.

Owner Steve Lane said: "The staff are enthusiastic and qualified in giving good pet nutrition advice. They are all own animals themselves, whether it is a dog, a cat or a reptile.

"In fact, the store is the official stockist for a number of premium dog foods, such as Royal Canin, James Wellbeloved, Burns, Arden Grange, Eukanuba, and Proplan.

"We also offer a dog care service with grooming, starting from £15."

Steve also deals in some of the more exotic pets, and sells tropical and coldwater fish, snakes, lizards, hamsters and tortoises, along with the necessary food supplies.

For local pet owners, who want the best advice on how to look after their pet, Pets 'R' Us on Regent Street is the place to visit. Follow us on Facebook – PetsrusGroomers or email us on Petsrus.barry@hotmail.co.uk.

Friendly Lexa will entertain!

THIS week, Dogs Trust spokeswoman Linda Feagan highlights Lexa, a one-year-old crossbreed.

LIVELY LEXA.

"She is a very friendly and affectionate girl who can be a little bit sensitive, in particular with boisterous dogs, but she can get on with calmer dogs.

"Her social skills with other dogs do need working on, but she loves playing with her good friends! Lexa is active and loves off-lead exercise.

"She can live with older children, and her new family will need to enjoy training and socialising her. In the right home, Lexa will be a bright, entertaining girlie!"

To learn more about Lexa, visit Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, or call 01656 725219.

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CARE 4 PETS is an established, reliable and popular pet care company whose head office is situated at 120, Park Crescent, in Barry.

Alison Moya, the owner, credits the success of Care 4 Pets to the high standard of care and reliability provided by the company.

Care 4 Pets, established 11 years ago, has more than 60 pet carers offering pet home-boarding, house-sitting, dog-walking and home-visiting.

Alison explained: "Many pet owners experience times when they are unable to care for their pet – from going on holiday and not wanting to use a boarding kennel, to simply needing their dog walked or their cats or other small animals fed at home.

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"Pets provides a professional and reliable service, giving peace of mind to our clients."

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If you would like to hear more about Care 4 Pets services, telephone on 01446 744633 or call in to the office.

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Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

AGNES STREET, PENARTH

H4U Reference 236867
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Rear garden

Rent £90.55 per week including water charges

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1060464
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and parking
- Communal entrance

Rent £90.34 per week including service charges

BEDFORD RISE, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U Reference 251843
Suitable for a single person, couple or family
- Two bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £76.99 per week including water charges

BOROUGH CLOSE, COWBRIDGE

H4U Reference 229868
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £89.87 per week including water charges

CAREW CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 980827
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- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Driveway

Rent £72.58 per week including service charge

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H4U Reference 1061923
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £76.28 per week

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1046339
Suitable for a single person or couple
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £72.37 per week including service charge

DYFRIG COURT, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U Reference 234431
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.68 per week including water charges

GWENOG COURT, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 210813
Suit for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- (2) One-bed flats
- Ground and first floors
- Central heating
- Double glazing
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- Warden and alarm

Rent approx £90.00 pw inc. alarm & service chgs

MONMOUTH WAY, BARRY

H4U reference 217122
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £73.82 per week including water charges

NARBERTH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 217815
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £83.80 per week including water charges

NORTH WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 218035
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £77.49 per week including water charges

O'DONNELL ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 218516
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £82.85 per week including water charges

OSPREY COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1062108
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £69.12 per week including service charges

PARKLAND WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 219235
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm
- Communal gardens

Rent £79.29 per week including water charges

REDLANDS HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243743
Suit for a single person 60
- Studio flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm
- Communal facilities
- Communal gardens
- Warden on site

Rent £97.90 pw inc water, heating and alarm charges

RHUDDLAN WAY, DINAS POWYS

H4U reference 1061989
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £76.63 per week

SEVERN AVENUE, BARRY

H4U reference 222646
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £78.14 per week including water charges

ST BARUCHS CT, BARRY ISLAND

H4U reference 963654
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £89.86 per week including service charges

ST CATHERINES COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 224527
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.76 per week including water charges

ST LUKES AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 245567
Suitable for a single person, couple or family
- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £75.02 per week including water charges

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THOMAS COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1062119
Suitable for a single person or couple with mobility needs
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- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £75.10 per week including service charge

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 228262
Suitable for a single person, couple or family
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £72.56 per week including water charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Lydstep Rd	54	Gold	14/09/10
Arthur Davis Ct	12	Gold	13/09/09
Cwrt Melin Y Rhos	67	Gold	25/08/10

NEWS FROM BARRY CAMERA CLUB

Judge praises high standard of entries

THE first scheduled monthly competition of 2011 was adjudicated by John Davies, who explained his judging method to club members.

An image needed to hold his attention and contain an idea or message; it needed to be able to hang on his wall for one month and to be enjoyed without him getting tired of it. If it could do this, then it stood a good chance of being a winner.

John's judgments turned out to be complimentary, encouraging and educational.

In the monochrome print category, in third place was 'Face Of A Ship' by Hugh Winnan – a clever image of the bow of a ship.

In second place was 'Kirkstone Pass' by Rob Owens – a landscape image of mountains and rocks.

The winner was 'Contrejour Cyclist' by Hugh Winnan – a lighthouse, taken as a silhouette, with three well-positioned cyclists moving across from left to right.

In the colour print category, in third place was 'Caps and Canes' by Hugh Winnan – two elderly men, enjoying a chat – a sympathetic study of old age.

In second place was 'Autumn Scene' by Rob Owens – a beautifully light stone cottage with smoke plumes rising from its chimney.

In first place was 'Exhilarating' by Trevor Ford-Smith – a sporting image of a white water canoeist. The much-impressed judge said that this image was worthy of publication.

In the projected images category, in joint third place were to 'Window Box' by Mike Lewis – a sky blue wall with a window and window box painted in yellow.

Also in third place was 'Iris' by Phil Stillman – a beautiful purple Iris, with light falling on the petals.

In second place was 'Winter Train Ride' by Phil Stillman – a train disappears around a bend and the railway track leads us into the image.

The winner was 'Got My Eye On You' by Jane Humphry– a brilliant image of part of an owl's face.

John was thanked by chairman Steve Durbin. This month's competition contained some varied subjects and some of the notable pieces of work came once again, from newer members, such as 'Mile High' by Allan Preece, which the judge thought very highly of.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm-9.30pm between September and May at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry, CF62 6NX. New members are welcome to attend, with no obligation to join.

Barbra Archdale-Smith

The Cowbridge under-7s are held to draw

A FINE, cold day saw Cowbridge age grade teams head into Cardiff for a much anticipated clash with the enthusiastic St Peters teams at the Harlequin ground.

Unfortunately, the cold, hard pitch meant that only the tag ages were able to play.

With only two teams playing, a really large pitch was available which suited both teams' expansive style of play.

St Peters were the first to score before Steffan Evans outstripped the home defence for the opening Cowbridge score.

Reuben Davies then got in on the act with two blistering touch downs, and Akka Guwy finished off a team try before St Peters answered back.

Frantic tackling stopped the scoreboard resembling a basketball match, but Steffan Evans completed his hat-trick with an audacious run for a well-deserved try.

The well-drilled St Peters team scored some excellent tries of their own, but Cowbridge finished off with a great team try scored by James Jones, before St Peters scored a thoroughly deserved draw-saving try.

Final score, St Peters 8, Cowbridge 8.

All in all, a great game of rugby played by two really competitive teams meant a draw was the only fair result.

Squad: Finlay Ball, Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Evan Davies, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies, Steffan Evans, Akka Guwy, Morgan Harris, Will Harries, James Jones, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Rhys Pritchard, Ifor Rees, Lewys Robins, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Luke Tredwell, Harry Treharne.

JD

Barry Pumas hit Cardiff Northern for six goals

BARRY PUMAS	**6**
CARDIFF NORTHERN	**1**

Barry Pumas were on fire last Sunday with their biggest win of the season.

The game was under threat due to the frozen pitch but went ahead once the referee was satisfied the surface was playable.

Pumas were quickly off the mark when Ben Weekley scored from close range within 10 minutes of play followed by a header that flew perfectly into the top corner four minutes later.

The Cardiff team quickly replied with a header from a long throw to half the deficit.

Callum Taylor was on the score sheet again with two goals before half time.

Sad news for Pumas as left back Stephens came off at half time with a broken ankle that he sustained in the first few minutes of the match, and it looks like he'll be out for 6-8 weeks.

The Barry team held strong in the second half and had to deal with a lot of pressure and near misses from the Cardiff side.

However, Pumas managed to counter attack well and Weekley netted a further two times.

Pumas' next opponants will be Division 2 leaders Cardiff Police in the second round of the Lazarou Challenge Cup.

BARRY RAVENS PICK OFF PENCOED LADIES

BARRY ladies hosted top-of-the-table Pencoed ladies in this eagerly anticipated league clash on a brisk Sunday afternoon with conditions perfect for rugby.

BARRY RAVENS	**15**
PENCOED LADIES	**10**

The home side fronted up against their much-fancied opponents and the tight five exerted early domination, especially in the set piece, with the front row partnership of Jodie Parker, Victoria Miller and Mel Curran colossal at scrum time.

It was the league leaders Pencoed who struck first, when the home side failed to defend a set piece close to the line to allow a score in the corner for an unconverted try.

The Barry backs began to tick behind their pack with Kim Jones having a fine game pulling the strings at stand-off, while also putting in her shift with some important carries.

A smart exchange of passes between Siwan Lilicrap and Hannah James on the right hand side cut the defence wide open, with James finishing off the move to level the scores with her second try in as many games. The conversion was missed.

By now the home side was in ascendency and Raf Taylor gave Barry the lead with a trademark dash off the base of a ruck.

Pencoed rallied early on in the second half, and they were camped for long periods inside the home 22, but some resolute defending, led by captain Gemma Naughton, her back row partner Rebecca Boffy, and the all-action player-of-the-match Lynsey Rees, kept the away side at bay.

Instead, the Ravens increased their lead with a breakaway try by Carole Ann Burt, with the conversion once again unsuccessful.

Pencoed threatened to come back into the game and nerves were jangling as the away side finally got a score to bring the scores to 15-10 with time still on the clock.

With a last throw of the dice, Pencoed negated the Barry pack and opted for an uncontested scrum to deliver quick ball for the backs, only for Rees, Jones, Taylor and co to slam the door firmly shut and seal a monumental win.

Club captain Lisa Jordan, who was sidelined by injury, expressed her pride in the team.

This was clearly the game that all the players and backroom staff (Richard Jordan, Anthony Williams, Nicki Yapp & Dean McCarthy) have been working for.

Team: Vaughan; Synan, Rees, Lilicrap, Holmes; Taylor, Jones; Parker, Miller, M. Curran; E. Curran, Shepherd; Boffy, Naughton (c), McCarthy.

Subs: Burt, James, Northcott, Clay, Long, Tresidder.

Player-of-the-match: Rees.

KC

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale – Tuesday, January 25:

First, Mark Roderick and Denis Mottram – 61.88 per cent; second, Mick Green and Jane Brook – 58.75; third, Mike Close and Noelle Bond – 57.26.

Mark and Denis also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, for more information ring 01446 733425.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(CARDIFF ROAD (A4055), DINAS POWYS)
(ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEDESTRIAN (PUFFIN) CROSSING)

1. The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (1984) (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends to establish a pedestrian (puffin) crossing for the reason described in Schedule 1 and at the location described in Schedule 2 below.

2. Full details of the proposal and a copy of the plan (Ref: T/11/08/MS), may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours.

SCHEDULE 1

The Council deems it necessary in the interest of safety to establish a pedestrian (puffin) crossing outside the train station to improve pedestrian safety.

SCHEDULE 2

The centre of the pedestrian (puffin) crossing will be located approximately 105 metres northeast of the centre of its junction with Station Road.

Dated this 3rd day of February 2011

Mr. M.E. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Quarry Road,
Wenvoe, CF5 6AA.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(CARDIFF ROAD (A4055), DINAS POWYS)
(GOSOD CROESFAN PL)

1. Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 23 Deddf Rheoli Traffig (1984) (ddiwygiedig), a phob p_er galluogi arall, yn bwriadu gosod croesfan pâl i ddibenion sydd wedi'u nodi yn Atodlen 1 ac mewn lle sydd wedi'i ddisgrifio yn Atodlen 2 isod.

2. Cewch weld y cynnig llawn a chopi o'r cynllun (Cyf: T/11/08/MS), yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

ATODLEN 1

Mae'r Cyngor yn barnu ei bod yn rhaid gosod croesfan pâl y tu allan i'r orsaf reilffordd fel y bo'n fwy diogel i gerddwyr.

ATODLEN 2

Bydd canol y groesan hon (sef croesfan pâl) ryw 105 medr i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o ganol y gyffordd â Station Road.

Dyddiedig 3 Chwefror 2011

Mr. M.E. Punter
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau
Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau,
Heol y Chwarel,
Gwenfô, CF5 6AA.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PARK CRESCENT, BARRY)
(ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEDESTRIAN (PUFFIN) CROSSING)

1. The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act (1984) (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends to upgrade the existing pedestrian (zebra) crossing to a pedestrian (puffin) crossing for the reason described in Schedule 1 and at the location described in Schedule 2 below.

2. Full details of the proposal and a copy of the plan (Ref: T/11/07/MS), may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours.

SCHEDULE 1

The Council deems it necessary in the interest of safety to upgrade the existing pedestrian (zebra) crossing to a pedestrian (puffin) crossing.

SCHEDULE 2

The centre of the pedestrian (puffin) crossing being located approximately 15 metres north of the centre of its junction with Kathleen Street.

Dated this 3rd day of February 2011

Mr. M.E. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Quarry Road, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(PARK CRESCENT, Y BARRI)
(GOSOD CROESFAN PL)

1. Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 23 Deddf Rheoli Traffig (1984) (ddiwygiedig), a phob p_er galluogi arall, yn bwriadu gwella croesfan sebra drwy ei throi'n groesfan pâl mewn man ac i ddibenion sydd wedi'u nodi yn Atodlen 2 isod.

2. Cewch weld y cynnig llawn a chopi o'r cynllun (Cyf: T/11/07/MS), yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

ATODLEN 1

Mae'r Cyngor yn barnu ei bod yn rhaid er diogelwch y cyhoedd i'r groesfan sebra hon gael ei gwella drwy ei throi'n groesfan pâl.

ATODLEN 2

Bydd canol y groesfan hon (sef croesfan pâl) ryw 15 medr i'r gogledd o ganol y gyffordd â Kathleen Street.

Dyddiedig 3 Chwefror 2011

Mr. M.E. Punter
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau
Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau,
Heol y Chwarel,
Gwenfô, CF5 6AA.

Gladstone School hosts the 'Focus on Food' bus

TRAVELLING along Gladstone Road last week, you couldn't fail to spot the Focus on Food cooking bus parked prominently in Gladstone Primary school's car park.

As part of its commitment to healthy eating and healthy lifestyles, Gladstone Primary School proudly hosted the cooking bus for the whole week.

During the week, the cooking bus tutors provided a range of hands-on practical cooking workshops for children in years 3, 5 and 6 as well as holding practical sessions for parents, staff and an after school club for the school council members.

Each workshop taught a range of skills and processes used to prepare food safely and hygienically as well as emphasising the importance of making healthy food choices, in particular the consumption of fruit and vegetables.

Children made vegetable samosas, roasted vegetable couscous salad, summer coca bread, leek and potato soup, lunchbox wraps, fruit kebabs to name but a few.

"The school as a whole has really benefitted from the Cooking Bus visit," said Helen Reilly, healthy schools co-ordinator. "The children who participated were so focussed and so enthused by the whole experience.

"We would like to extend our thanks to Richard Shaw and Myfannwy Stubbs, the cooking bus tutors, and Tony the driver, as well as all the parents who attended the two community sessions."

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THE SLOPES IN AUSTRIA...

The senior pupils escape the December snow – by going skiing!

The fancy dress skiing was great fun!

The school staff taking it easy!

Danji Jurkovic presenting George Spill and Tom Sander with the ski trophy.

THE school senior ski course for 2010 was once again a great success, thanks to a fantastic group of pupils, school staff and a very well-organised ski company.

A party of 46 sixth form students and five staff travelled to Alpendorf in Austria. Travelling to Dover for the ferry crossing proved to be an experience, as adverse weather conditions made the journey difficult. The snow from Bristol to Dover was largely unexpected, but fortunately the bus company was well equipped with snow chains and tyres.

Arriving in Austria, the party were greeted with fantastic blue skies and fresh powder on the mountains. Once again, the school used a local, family-run business called Snowslippers for this course.

The company reps and director were there to greet the group as they arrived in the pretty little village of Sankt Johann, Alpendorf. The ski fitting system was slick and all pupils and staff were fully kitted out with the latest ski hire equipment within an hour.

The group were then transported to The Hotel Larchenoff, where they were warmly greeted by owners Peter and Heidi. The school has used this hotel before and the level of service, accommodation and food were all first class.

The tour party also regularly took advantage of the on-site sauna and spa facilities, as well as getting great use of the underground function room which inevitably came to be known as 'the rave cave'.

The venue is superb for organising night time activities for the pupils and much fun was had by all when guest DJs Mars and Doom brought the place to life.

On the slopes, all pupils were instructed by the local Austrian Red White Red ski school. With more than 200km of groomed runs and high speed chair lifts, the area boasts a huge variety of pistes that more than cater for beginners to the most advanced members of the party. Some of the pupils in the top groups covered distances close to 100km per day.

Once again, pupils in group one were coached by the current Croatian Olympic ski coach and director of Snowslippers, Danji Jurkovic. Danji was very impressed with the standard of skiing in both his group and in the school party in general.

Standouts in the top group were George Spill, Thomas Sander, Amy Taylor, Louise Edwards and Dillon Morgan.

George would later go on to claim the trophy for fastest skier, and an award for best senior skier during the presentation evening on the last night.

Snowslippers also organised a range of evening activities to keep the pupils and staff occupied after all of the hard work on the mountain.

Sledging, bowling, swimming, shopping, quiz / carol singing and a presentation evening were all popular among both pupils and staff.

With weather conditions taking a turn for the worse back in the UK, the staff had to make a decision whether or not to bring the group home a day early. After consulting the local weather report and liaising with the tour company, it was decided that it would be a shame for pupils and staff to miss a full day skiing, especially as the bus was equipped with snow chains and tyres.

With the decision made, all pupils and staff embarked on the last day of skiing in fancy dress. The final day on the mountain was spent with a number of unusual sights on the slopes of Alpendorf. It was not uncommon to spot a flying cow, Scuba Steve, banana man, Mexican bandit, giant penguin and even glamour model Katie Price hurtling down the mountain or catching a chair lift.

All pupils and staff returned safely to school on Christmas Eve with great memories and stories to tell.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the school and Snowslippers staff for their help and organisation in running another successful Senior School Ski Course. Above all, I would like to thank the pupils for the way in which they conducted themselves during the course. They were a credit to themselves, to Cowbridge to their parents and the school in general. Well done!

GW

BUILDING EXCELLENCE IS RECOGNISED AT THE VALE COUNCIL'S AWARD CEREMONY

'Nominations in every category were of the very highest quality'

THE eighth Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Control Group 'Building Excellence' awards were held at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, on the January 28, 2011.

The evening was attended by the leader of the council, Coun Gordon Kemp; Coun Jeff James, cabinet member for planning and transportation; Rob Thomas, head of planning and transportation; the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Colin Osborne and the Mayoress Mrs Ruby Osborne.

The occasion was also attended by the Building Control team, together with the sponsors of the event, Julie Bannon of the Best Western Mount Sorrel Hotel, Jan Irving of the Glamorgan GEM, Steve Nicholls of Steve Nicholls Estate agent, and Philip Edwards of ACD Skip Hire.

The evening was hosted by Marcus Goldsworthy, operational manager for development and building control group at the Vale Council, who told the guests and nominees: "The nominations in every category were of the very highest quality and the winners will all now have the chance to stand against the winners of other councils' awards in south Wales in the South Wales 'Building Excellence' awards, which will be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel and Spa Resort, Hensol on April 8.

"Hopefully, we will see some of them go forward to the ultimate achievement of the 'Building Excellence' award national finals, which will be held in London in October, where they will be up against nomination from many councils throughout England.

"The awards have shown the quality of work that is being undertaken throughout the Vale of Glamorgan and we are proud to be rewarding and encouraging quality in the construction industry.

"Our thanks must go to the sponsors, who have enabled the event to be firmly placed in the annual diary," he added.

The award winners who will now go forward to the south Wales event are:

Category 1 - Extension/alteration to a dwelling

Mike Hopkins of Barry for the alteration and extension to Limescourt, Cowbridge.

Category 2 – Home Conversion

Mr Gerald Leeke for the new apartments at Hensol Park.

Category 3 New Dwellings

AJ Banks Building Contractors Ltd., for the new dwelling at Golygfa, Colwinston.

Category 4 – Social Affordable Housing

Tremlett & Griffiths of Maesteg for the new dwellings at Court Road, Barry

Category 5 – Public & Community Buildings

Carillion, for the New teaching facilities at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Cowbridge.

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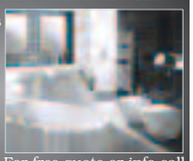

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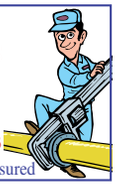

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GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

COOK
Ian Stuart

Peacefully after a short illness, Ian of Wick, loved and cherished husband of Christina, and beloved father of Amanda and Craig, and devoted grandfather of Marcus, Daniel and Matthew. A respected father in law of Andrew and Rebecca.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Monday, 7th February 2011 in Coychurch Crematorium at 9.30am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

Kathleen Smith

The family of the late Kathleen Smith would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their support and comfort during their recent loss. It was Kathleen's wish to use the services of Mel and Ron Watkins Funeral Directors, whose attention to detail was exemplary. Equally, the caterers and florists deserve a special thanks.

COLLETT, Stephen Philip

On January 28th at Princess of Wales Hospital, Stephen Philip, aged 72 years of the Broadshoard, Cowbridge.

Devoted husband of the late Margaret, much loved father of Paul and Claire, loving Grampy of May and Evan.

Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, Friday, 11th February at 12.15 followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if desired, in aid of RNIB c/o Thomas Brothers Funeral Directors.

BALL, Vera Marie

Vera, wife of the late Allan William Ball, slipped away peacefully on 29th January at Dewi Sant Hospital.

A short service will held at her home in Ty Ddewi, Ton Pentre on 8th February 2011 at 11.30am followed by the church service and internment at 1.00pm in St Brides Super Ely. Family flowers only.

JONES, Hugh Gabriel
29-7-1923 20-01-2011

Hugh of Dinas Powys passed away on Thursday, 20th January, 2011 at the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth.

Much loved husband of Audrey and father of Robert.

Interment will take place at 1.00 pm on Monday, 7th February at the Cardiff and Vale Natural Burial Ground.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired, in lieu of flowers would be appreciated for the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth. Donations and all enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel. 029 20514627

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NEWS UPDATE ROM THE BARRY MEN'S FORUM

Proving that the WIs are not just about jam and Jerusalem!

THE history of the Women's Institute and the influence that the suffrage movement had on its development, was outlined to the forum by Mrs Margaret Bourke at the last meeting.

Margaret explained how a rural village movement in Canada, designed to expand the interests of all classes of women, spread at the time of the First World War to north Wales, and then out to the whole world in a short space of time.

The remarkable founder of this popular movement was one Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, who seemed to live only to help others in life, and she did this through many charitable outlets.

Although she died at the relatively young age of 54, she lived to see her brainchild take off like wildfire. By the time of World War One it was, without doubt, an idea whose time had come.

The first institute in the UK was established in Anglesey and it was successful in bringing together women with both a church and chapel background.

Women of all classes were inspired by good leadership to make new efforts to change the conditions of, for many of them, their drab lives.

The turbulent times that faced Britain at the end of the Great War were seen as a chance to educate and enfranchise woman so that they could start to play a proper and equal role in society.

There is little doubt that the WIs which quickly became federated into a national movement, were fortunate in having great leaders.

Lady Denman, who became the first national federation chairman, was one, but a whole administrative impetus from those who had gained experience in the 'Votes for Women' movement was also on hand.

The message went out that women should be in the movement for what they could give, and not for what they could get. It mattered not whether they were rich, or poor, learned or unlearned, there was a place for everyone and everyone had something to give. That holds true today.

The WI provides a role for rural women throughout the country and is a movement of influence.

From time to time, some incident will give it a brief moment of 'tabloid' publicity, such as when members in the north of England stripped off to reveal themselves as the Calendar Girls and raised a huge amount of money for charity; or when Prime Minister Tony Blair addressed them some years ago at a national conference, only to receive a response that made headlines in the media.

Meanwhile, the activities which play such an important role in the lives of so many women go steadily on throughout the year. The famous Denman College in Oxfordshire, founded in memory of the first illustrious leader in Britain, runs many varied courses year after year which are open to members.

At the next meeting on February 10, Jeff Robinson will speak on 'Experiences in Education'

Meetings are held at 10.30am on Thursdays in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Barry. New members are very welcome.

For further details, contact 029 23059 4881.

MAC TANNER

ABOVE: Bryn Hafren pupils with university on their mind.

Record number of students apply for university places

DESPITE concerns over student loans, staff at Bryn Hafren school in Barry report that they have been extra busy, helping a record number of pupils to fill in their application forms for university places

Mr Allen, head of key stage 5, commented:"The past few months have been very hectic, writing references for all our students. We have some very able students who want to do a variety of courses to further their education. We wish them well."

Among those applying for university are Jenifer Millard, who hopes to do astrophysics in Cardiff, Lisa Bennett, who wants to do a joint modern foreign Languages degree, and Lani Tucker who hopes to pursue a degree course in geography.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00037/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Ground floor extension
Location:/Lleoliad:	Yr Ysgubor Fawr, Wallas Farm, Llampha
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building
Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00039/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Complete demolition of modern conservatory extension. Erection of single storey dining extension. Repairs to existing fireplace/flue. Construction of new flueless fireplace. Fitting of new timber screens and floor. Internal refurbishment. Blocking up of staff toilet window
Location:/Lleoliad:	The Duke of Wellington, 48, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting The Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge Grade II

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00067/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Construction of a new Extra-Care development, to provide 42 flats and associated communal and ancillary spaces
Location:/Lleoliad:	Theatre Royal, Broad Street, Barry

Departure from the Provision of the Development Plan
Ceisiadau nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â Darpariaeth y Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00056/RG3
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Construction of new sixty space surface car park within part of an adjoining field to the south west of Llangan Primary School, including new access off the adopted highway
Location:/Lleoliad:	Agricultural land south west of Llangan Primary School, Ruthin Road, Llangan

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk
Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 3 February, 2011
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,

Dyddiedig: 3 Chwefror, 2011
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS news round-up

Seven meet a saint – and a pelican!

Walkers at Ogmore Castle.

SEVEN walkers met up with their leader Val Williams at the main car park in Ogmore-by-Sea and tramped uphill in promising weather, to the quiet hamlet of Norton, and then through Pant Norton.

At Pant y Cwteri, a narrow path took them down to the 'Pelican in its Piety' pub, which features on the coat of arms of the local Carne family.

Sir Edward Carne, a favourite of King Henry Vlll, was promoted Abbot of Gloucester and recommended as a fitting tenant for Ewenny Priory by the King (he later became Abbot).

Crossing to ruined Ogmore Castle and up towards Ogmore Down, it was the leaders' intention to visit Castle-upon-Alun.

On reaching the cattle grid at St Brides Major, and with time marching on, the group made their way to the parish church dedicated to St Bridget, patron saint of dairy maids, infants, midwives, blacksmiths, poets, nuns and students!

At the base of the 16th century preaching cross for lunch, they noted how parts of the cross were destroyed by Cromwell's men and natural weathering over time.

The church dates back to Norman times and was rebuilt in the 14th century, and heavily restored in 1851.

The monuments in the chancel were dedicated to members of the Wyndham family, who built Dunraven Castle, and the Butler family, landowners of both Dunraven and Ogmore.

Refreshed, the group took the gentle climb across Beacons Down where the famous track of Heol-y-Milwr, or Soldiers' Way runs, to reach the hamlet of Heol-y-Mynydd.

Following the road to Groes Farm, they took the bridleway that led to West Farm, before joining the coastal footpath for a stroll back to their cars.

On February 5, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile hard walk from the Storey Arms to Cwm Llwch; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On February 6, meet at 9am at Cogan for a nine-mile moderate walk taking in the Llangattock tramroad and quarries, and the Brecon Canal; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

JOY STRANGWARD

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

First XV dig deep for victory at Chepstow

THE senior rugby side moved into the quarter-finals of the National Plate Competition, after a bruising 7-0 victory away to Chepstow.

Playing with a much larger pack that contained three under-18 regional players (and the starting No 8 for Newport seniors!) Chepstow dominated the early scrum contest.

It was also evident that both teams lacked match practice, with a number of fixtures cancelled due to adverse weather.

Halfway through the first half, Cowbridge stepped up the intensity and started to control the contact area.

The Cowbridge lineout was dominant and the backs began to break first line tacklers.

With the score 0-0 at half-time, Cowbridge once again stepped up the tempo and showed real desire to win. In the pack, Gus McPherson, Matt Goodlad, Jack Wilkins and captain Ben Smith led by example, creating quality ball for the backline.

Rhys Griffin controlled the game well at outside-half and Matt Logsdon, Christian Roberts Walters, Harry Hitchcock and Alistair Brace showed real quality in both attack and defence.

With 10 minutes to play, scrum-half Rhys Allin broke the defensive line and raced the length of the pitch to score under the posts, and Christian Walters converted to win the game 7-0. An excellent team performance.

Basketball

THE senior basketball squad got the basketball season under way last week when they faced an international squad team from Atlantic College.

Captain Oliver Trotman was the standout performer for the school team, with good performances from Sam Roberts, Harry Stubbington and Matt Logsdon.

Atlantic College opened up an early lead, but the Cowbridge Wildcats fought back strongly to be within touching distance at half-time.

Referee Ken Corn ensured a fast and free-flowing game. Despite a late rally from the Cowbridge Wildcats, Atlantic College pulled away in the last quarter to win by 50-29.

Netball

COWBRIDGE year-10 and 11 netball team played St Richard Gwyn at Cowbridge.

The year-10 team won 7-1 with some excellent defence work by Naduni Jaysinge, Caitlin Allin and Bethan Sloan stopping any attacking from St Richard Gwyn.

Liz Whitehouse had a solid game in the centre, controlling the attack with Anna Wynne, Mari Boxall and Carys Rhys Jones shooting for the team. Carys was named player of the match for excellent play in the circle and on target shots.

The year-11 team played with two players down due to illness. Hannah Taylor (year-10) played, so it was seven versus six players. The team played really well but unfortunately lost 5-4, with Rachel Bradshaw getting player of the match in the centre for some excellent defensive and attacking work.

Years 8-9

THE year-8 and year-9 netball teams played at St Richard Gwyn.

In the year-8 game, Cowbridge won 7-3 with some excellent centre work by Rebecca Thomas.

In attack, player of the match Emily Davies was on form as goal shoot, as was Kim Jerwood at goal attack.

In the year-9 match, St Richard Gwyn won 8-0 with Imogen Miller at GK and GD working hard in defence. She was named player of the match.

Charity praises its volunteers

DINAS Powys Voluntary Concern (DPVC), a local charity which will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2012, held an informal meeting for its volunteers in the Murchfield Community Hall on January 26.

Co-ordinator Wendy Lees, said: "Without the dedication, hard work and expertise of our volunteers, Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern would not be able to give the help and support that so many of the older and less mobile members of our village community rely on.

She said that she would be delighted to welcome anyone interested in helping with the work of the organisation.

She can be contacted on weekdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm on 029 2051 3700, or by email: dpvc@btinternet.com

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Barry RFC trials

TRIALS for Barry RFC under-12s (year-7) have begun and the club is looking for experienced players to join its expanding squad.

Contact Chris on 07980 971303 or 01446 405583.

LUCY'S LONG JUMP TRIUMPH

LUCY TAYLOR from Llantwit Major Comprehensive School took gold at the Welsh indoor championships (under-17 section) in the long jump.

Lucy (age 16) is now Welsh indoor and outdoor under-17 long jump champion.

Her winning jump was 4m 91cm.

PICTURED: Lucy Taylor of Llantwit Major

Cadoxton Barry round-up

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36)

The seconds will also be at that same venue on Saturday when they entertain St Athan seconds – again two sides who will be seeing a lot of each other in the near future as they meet up again in cup and reverse league fixtures.

Meanwhile, the Cadoxton Barry third team pulled off a comfortable 3-6 win over hosts Glenbrook seconds. They too will also have seen a lot of each other by next weekend, when it will be the turn of Cadoxton Barry to play host to the same side. Both fixtures are at Bryn-y-Don.

Both Cadoxton Barry seconds and Cadoxton Barry thirds hold second spot in the Vale of Glamorgan League Divisions One and Two respectively.

This Saturday, Cadoxton Barry entertain former Welsh league side Blaenrhondda in the last 16 of the South Wales Senior Cup. The game kicks off at Jenner Park at 2pm.

This week's lottery numbers were 4,5,7,8,10 and 14. There were no winners so the prize on offer goes up to £500 with a choice of six numbers from 15.

NW

Godfrey beats cold and flu to win rose bowl

TALYGARN resident Godfrey Lewis, despite suffering from what wife Jennifer described as a bout of manflu, overcame the sniffles and the bitterly cold weather to win the monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society.

Held at the rapidly-improving Dewstow Golf Club, 70-year-old Godfrey scored 35 stableford points to collect the Llanharan Concrete Limited sponsored Rose Bowl.

In second place was Martyn David on 33 points, just ahead of Mike Lee, who finished with the same score. Glyn Watts-Jones finished fourth with 31 points.

In the guest section Ken Davies, the well respected secretary of the Monmouthshire Farmers Golf Society, took the honours with the days best score of 37 points, with John Anstee playing on his home course finishing runner up with 34 points.

Julian Kelly won the 'James Hog Roast' sponsored longest drive competition and Martyn David won the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whiskey by correctly guessing 26 balls would fail to return home.

This also resulted in £40 being raised for the Noah's Ark appeal fund.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Jim Hayes, Raymond Thomas and Godfrey Lewis (two).

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, at Southerndown Golf Club to be sponsored by Mr Glyn Watts-Jones.

Hopefully at this meeting members will get the opportunity of welcoming back Mr Dai John of Cowbridge, who is rapidly getting back to full fitness following recent surgery.

TMcC

Two Vale trainers saddle winners at Hereford races

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan and Llancarfan's Evan Williams both saddled winners at Hereford Races on Sunday.

Williams' six-year-old *William's Wishes*, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, landed the Lindley Catering Novices' Chase coming home seven lengths clear of *Outside The Box* while Vaughan's French-bred *Grand Lahou*, partnered by local jockey Tom David, took the SIS Live Sovereign Handicap Chase at odds of 6-1, finishing a length ahead of the Peter Bowen trained *Saphir Des Bois*.

Vaughan also saddled the third horse home, *Postmaster*.

The odds-on favourite, *William's Wishes*, who carried top weight of 11st 8lb, was landing a three-timer.

The promising Rhys Flint, who hails from Kenfig Hill, chalked up a double at Fakenham with *Alcade* in the Wensum Novices' Hurdle and *All That Remains* in the Fakenham Standard Open National Hunt Flat Race.

The former romped home by 12 lengths from *Break The Chain* and the latter won by three parts of a length from *Tealissio*.

New goals for hockey hot-shots

PICTURED: Vale Junior Hockey Club coach James Davies, three young club members, and the new goals they have bought with help from the Community Chest scheme.

YOUNG hockey hot-shots from the Vale are aiming for sporting success after the Vale Junior Hockey Club was awarded a special grant to buy a new set of goals.

The county's only club for young hockey players aged five to 16 was given a £993.83 Community Chest grant towards the new equipment.

Agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from the Vale Council's sports and play development team and Sport Wales, the Community Chest scheme is available to provide new and improved opportunities for local people of all ages and abilities to take part in sports and physical activities.

Club coach, James Davies, said: "Our aim is to increase hockey participation in the Vale and with the arrival of these goals we can now work towards this outcome.

"As we are the only junior hockey club currently operating in the Vale, we are trying to create and nurture new links with schools and other clubs and in the forthcoming months we look forward to providing more competitive opportunities for our youngsters by hosting junior tournaments.

"On behalf of my fellow coaches and club members, I would like to thank everyone involved in the Community Chest process, as well as Huw Williams, managing director of Highway and Industrial Ltd, for his sponsorship."

The Vale Junior Hockey Club trains every Wednesday evening from 6.15pm to 7.15pm at the Colcot Sports Centre in Barry. For further details telephone James Davies on 07834 242908.

If you would like to make a proposal for how your sports club or organisation would benefit from a Community Chest grant, or you would like to apply for a grant to set up a new club, telephone the Vale Council's sports and play development manager Karen Davies on 01446 704793. *For further details about local sporting opportunities, please visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay.*

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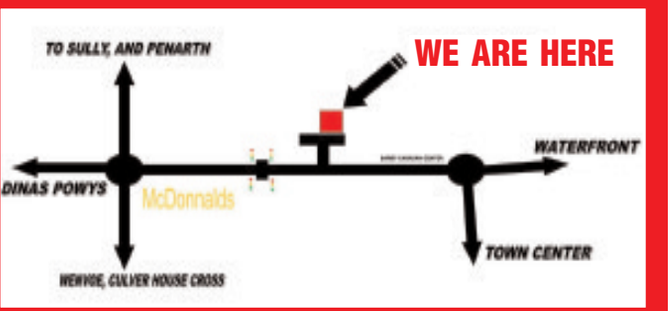

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04 04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr Hatchback. Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, CD, only 40,955 miles **£3,495**

03 53 MINI One 1.6 3-dr hatchback in indie blue with anthracite/panther black interior, alloy wheels, chrome mirror caps, electric panoramic glass r oof, only 71,000 miles **£5,995**

03 53 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 HDi 90D Turbo (a/c) 3-dr Hatchback. In light metallic blue with black interior, electric sliding sunroof, air con, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 50,780 miles.....**£3,495**

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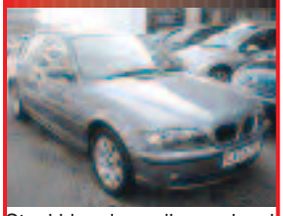

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57	**AUDI A4 2.0 TDi Convertible Automatic.** In met red with beige leather seats, one owner, fantastic value at	£11,995
57	**MAZDA MX5 2.0 Sports.** In met blue with black leather heated seats, 12,000 miles, 1 owner.	£11,995
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06	**FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST.** In silver, 39,000 miles with a/c, on offer at. REDUCED BY £500 TO	£6,495
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58	**CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SXi Estate Auto.** In Met Blue, 9,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty	£5,495
07	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Club 5-dr.** In blue, 31,000 miles, 1 local owner.	£5,495
06	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Club 5-dr Auto.** In silver, 31,000 miles, two owners.	£5,495
56	**MITSUBISHI Lancer 1.6 Elegance Automatic.** In met blue with black leather, 37,000 miles.	£4,995
06	**VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life** In silver, 40,000 miles with CD, A/C etc.	£4,995
06	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life 5-dr Automatic.** In met black, 53,000 miles, 2 owners	£4,995
06	**NISSAN Note 1.4 SE.** In electric blue, 46,000 miles, 2 owners, excellent throughout.	£4,995
06	**FORD Focus 1.6LX 5-dr.** In met blue, 44,000 miles, ideal family hatch with a/c, cd	£4,995
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56	**SMART Four Two 700 Passion Automatic Convertible.** In silver with black leather, heated seats, a/c	£4,695
06	**RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique.** Silver, 46,000 miles, 7 seater.	£4,695
05	**CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi SX 5-dr.** In light met blue, 67,000 miles, diesel economy at	£4,495
05	**ALFA ROMEO 147 1.6 Lusso 3-dr.** In met blue, 56,000 miles, a/c, alloys. REDUCED BY £500 TO	£3,495
03	**TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 CDX 5-dr Auto** in jade met, 39,000 miles, 2 owners	£3,995
07	**CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE.** In silver, low mileage example with low running costs	£3,695
05	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 VVTT Expression.** In met-red, 60,000 miles, 2 owners, only	£3,695
04	**PEUGEOT 206 1.1S 3-dr.** In silver, 36,000 miles with a/c.	£2,995
53	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2SXi.** Met green, a/c, elec windows, very attractive car	£2,995
03	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamic 3-Dr.** In black, 68,000 miles, alloys, sunroof	£2,995
54	**ROVER 45 1.6 Club** in silver, 36,000 mile example with heated seats, cd. REDUCED BY £500 TO	£2,495
51	**FORD Focus 2.0 Ghia 4-dr.** In met black, 75,000 miles, 1 owner example with A/C etc.	£2,695
52	**VAUXHALL Vectra 1.8LS 5-dr.** In silver, 83,000 miles, large family hatch.	£2,195

07 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 T Spirit

Leather, air con, etc, gunmetal grey metallic
£7,995

06 NISSAN Note 1.4 SE

In electric blue, 46,000 miles, 2 owners, excellent throughout **£4,995**

55 MINI ONE 1.6

In black, 46,000 miles, 2 owners, low insurance
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Barry Seconds grind out victory over Clwb Rygbi

Clwb Rygbi Second XV 16,
Barry Second XV 21.

BARRY Seconds returned to winning ways with a fine away victory against Clwb Rygbi.

After a run of poor form in the beginning of the calendar year, Barry ground out a deserved win with a threadbare squad, with Barrians Nick Lundy and Chris Prosser drafted into the team.

They held their own as Jason Evans and substitute Ben Taylor crossed for the visitors.

Adam Lee added three penalties and a conversion with his trusted boot to keep Barry top of the table.

This weekend sees Barry return to action at home in a top-of-the-table clash against Pontyclun.

Team: T Poole, A Evans, Harris, D Williams, R Williams, Dimond, Lee, Houldey, Prosser, Lundy, Myers, McTavish, O Poole, Jones, J Evans. Subs used: J Williams, Taylor, Rolfe, Tobin.

Old Penarthians 31, Barrians 15

The Barrians finally returned to action for the first time in two months with a tricky away tie at Old Penarthians.

Once again player-manager Ken Chow was faced with large numbers of players unavailable, and handed a first start for Shane Parker, while scrum-half James Thorne made his debut.

Lee David and Clive Thomas were recalled from the vets and made their debuts for the Barrians.

Fly-half Chris Bailey made a superb break from midfield and delivered a slide-rule pass for Chow to race through and touch down underneath the posts; Bailey was successful with the conversion.

Thomas and David were causing all sorts of problems to the Old Pens defence with their aggressive ball carrying, while the centre partnership of Ashley Forrester and Parker were looking dangerous coming forward.

Unfortunately, it was the home side who put themselves onto the scoreboard next, as some good tactical kicking saw them venture deep into the Barrians 22 and, despite some desperate tackling, the home side came back with an unconverted try in the corner.

The Barrians responded when Bailey kicked a penalty after a home infringement in front of the posts to edge ahead 10–5, but the lead was not to last long, as the home side pounced on some mistakes to score a converted try.

The Old Pens increased the tempo in the second half and with the away side unable to win their own line-outs, the home side dominated territory and were rewarded with another try to put the game seemingly out of reach.

Once again, however, the Barrians did not lie down.

With Thorne orchestrating play outstandingly at scrum-half, he allowed the forwards to go through the phases before setting up Forrester. He in turn threw a long pass to substitute Anthony Jenkins, who sprinted through to score on his debut. Forrester was unsuccessful with the conversion.

Unfortunately for the Barrians, they had no energy left in the final minutes to try to level the scores, and it was the home side who ran away in the dying moments with two tries.

There was no faulting the effort put in by a side strung together in the last minute though, and all Barrians can be proud of their achievements.

Team: M Jones, Chow (captain), Forrester, Parker, King, Thorne, Bailey, Elsworth, Bergeron, L Jones, Williams, Moffat, David, Avaient, Thomas. Subs used: Boffy, Palmer, Jenkins, Long.

Man-of-the-match: Thorne.

KC

BARRY RFC RUGBY ROUND-UP

Llantwit under-11s play full game on half pitch

ON a bitterly cold morning, Llantwit Major under-11s travelled to Eastern Leisure Centre in Cardiff to meet St Illtyds.

With the home games called off, many wondered what conditions we would find. The disappointing answer was that with half of the pitch unplayable for a normal game, the coaches agreed on a touch rugby game.

Llantwit Major dominated from the start, and an unanswered 10 tries were run in during the first half, but with most of the half played within five metres of the opposition line, no-one had far to run to finish off.

The tries were shared between four of the players: Ieuan Williams (three), Joe Baker (three), Luke Pilcher and Joe Boxsall grabbing two each.

In the second half, Llantwit were challenged to play running rugby and throw the ball wide. The half started brilliantly, as Joe Boxsall flew up the wing, to touch down in the corner for his third, the try of the game and ultimately a man of the match winning moment.

A few mistakes from Llantwit let St Illtyds back in the game and they crossed the line four times with no reply.

Bursting from a defensive position on the Llantwit line, Oliver Tornebene-Wright drew the defender and fed the ball to Rhys Richards. Rhys went round his opposite number and tore up the touch line, unfortunately just running out of steam and being caught metres from try line.

It was a fine effort from the team in bitter conditions to win 55-20.

PH

Cowbridge trainer bags first winner!

COWBRIDGE'S Angela Ray saddled her first winner with her first runner when *Classic Chance,* a 14–1 outsider, landed the mixed open race at the Tiverton Hunt Point-To- Point Steeplechases at Chipley Park.

Owned by his breeder Justin Bryant, in partnership with Peter Mills, *Classic Chance* was ridden by Byron Moorcroft, aged 22, who told the press: "I only got here five minutes before weighing-out time."

Moorcroft, who recently resumed his amateur status after more than three years as a conditional jockey, said: "I worked at various yards, starting with Jimmy Frost and ending at Alan King's and rode 25 winners."

Had he ridden just one more winner, he would have been barred from riding as an amateur again.

A delighted Angela Ray, who has taken over the reins from retired trainer Margaret Rees, said: "I've looked after *Classic Chance* since he was six weeks old, and love him to bits."

Classic Chance, an 11-year-old bay gelding, outstayed his 13 rivals to win by a head from *Ballydub* in the fastest time of the day.

TIM'S 558-MILE ROUND TRIP IS WORTH IT

A 558-mile round trip from Aberthin to Sedgefield and back paid off for trainer Tim Vaughan, when his eight-year-old *Midnight Legend* romped home a 40 lengths winner of the Roflow Handicap Hurdle.

Backed from 6-1 to 9-2, and ridden by Tom Scudamore, son of the legendary National Hunt champion jockey Peter, *Midnight Legend* made every post a winning one but unfortunately picked up an injury in doing so.

Vaughan said: "We thought he'd rack up a sequence over fences the way he worked at home, but things didn't quite work out for him. Thankfully we've given him a little break after an unsuccessful spell over fences and he's done it as we anticipated."

BRIAN LEE

Penarth Windsor edge tennis match

PENARTH Windsor Tennis Club mixed veterans snatched a narrow win over local rivals Dinas Powys.

At close of play both teams were equal on matches and sets won, and the games count became crucial with Penarth Windsor winning by a narrow but satisfying margin of three games.

The Dinas Powys side had been unbeaten this season, making the victory even more pleasing for the Windsor players.

In round one, Windsor first pairing Cathy O'Doherty and Tim Hartland had a comfortable win 6–2, 6–2, while Edwina Gill and Peter Bellingham had a much tougher match against the Dinas first pair, losing 1–6, 2–6.

In the second round Cathy and Tim lost their first set at tie-break but then went on to win the second set 6–0 and win the match convincingly in a third set tie-break.

Meanwhile, Edwina and Peter, getting a little more used to the artificial surface, dropped the first set 3–6, but battled on to win the second 7–5, only to narrowly lose their match in a close deciding tie-break.

NG

Barry RFC are put to the sword by quick and clinical Pontyclun

BARRY travelled to Pontyclun last Saturday for a fixture re-arranged from last year.

Barry elected to play into the sun for the first half, but almost immediately found themselves seven points down, when the home backs took advantage of some poor alignment in the Barry three quarters.

This was hardly surprising, given that the visitors were forced to play their fastest, and probably most mobile, back-row forwards in the centre positions.

However, the visiting pack were strong enough to give their opponents a pretty torrid time at the set pieces. They got a just reward for these efforts when Cummings opened their account with a penalty after only seven minutes of play.

At the restart, the home side scored another converted try, which owed as much to Barry's poor kicking and tackling as to any particular skill from Pontyclun.

The game reached the half-hour mark and the home side scored another try. This was a direct result of Barry being under constant pressure, with the ball rarely leaving their half of the field.

The Pontyclun team took the ball out wide at every opportunity and given the extreme width of the pitch these were sensible tactics especially against a makeshift central defence.

As in previous weeks, the Barry pack was dominating most of the tight phases. A rare insertion into the home defence and clever approach play by Williams was rewarded with another well-struck penalty goal.

On the run-in to the interval, a worrying tendency appeared which was leading to a lack of cohesion and concentration within the team.

Barry RFC	**9**
Pontyclun RFC	**42**

There were several players who would be well advised to let their rugby do the talking, rather than relying upon verbal spats – behaviour of this kind has never won a match!

Barry started the second half on a very positive note and had soon cut arrears with a further penalty.

There were positive contributions from George, Hadfield, Hollister and Hunt. The referee allowed clear offside by the backs at the set pieces and dummy runners to flourish, and, inevitably it was the more experienced Ponyclun backs who took most advantage from these worrying aspects of play.

During the last 20 minutes, the game slipped quickly for Barry as the match became a battle between stronger Barry forwards and faster and more skillful Pontyclun backs.

Given that the home team forwards stuck to their task, especially in the loose, the result became a foregone conclusion.

Pontyclun scored a further three tries to obtain a bonus point.

All the home team's tries were converted by a very able place kicker.

A disappointing performance, then, but this team can put it behind them when they face Rhiwbina away this Saturday.

Team – Ryan, Adams, Hadfield, Brown, Butisil, Cummings, Lee, Hunt, O'Sullivan, Hollister, Williams, Campbell, Jones, King, George; Subs – Morgan, Prosser, Gill, Harrison.

CO

Club news

NORTH BERWICK tour information sheets will be distributed at the club this Saturday.

However, for those unable to be there, the following details are essential for Friday, February 11.

1. Do not forget your passport;

2. Flight departure is 8am;

3. Latest booking time is 7.15am;

4. Luggage allowance – hold 15kg, hand luggage 5kg; please check the internet for restricted items allowed as hand luggage;

5. Transport has been arranged both from and to North Berwick at a cost of £10 per head, which will be collected on the aircraft.

We still have a few places left – please contact me at andyjam68@yahoo.co.uk.

Two games out of three for Cadoxton FC

CADOXTON Barry FC were without a South Wales Senior League game last Saturday due to a frozen pitch at the home of Merthyr side, Penydarren.

However, both the seconds and the thirds found their respective Bryn-y-Don pitches in excellent condition for the time of year.

On Tuesday, February 8, Cadoxton Barry play their first game of the season under the Jenner Park lights when Garw, who were in the Welsh League as recently as last season, are the visitors in a 7.30pm kick-off.

The seconds avenged an early season defeat at the hands of Dockers seconds with a stylish 3-1 victory.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)

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